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HONGKONG TELEGRAPH,
For and on behalf of
SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LTD.
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The Hongkong Telegraph.

Today's Weather: Moderate or fresh NNE winds; cloudy, with occasional light rain or drizzle; cooler.
Noon Observations: Barometric pressure, 1020.9 mbs., 30.15 in. Temperature, 66.8 deg. F. Dew point, 56 deg. F. Relative humidity, 85. Wind direction, ENE. Wind force, 14 knots.
High water: 6 ft. 2 in. at 4.20 p.m. Low water: 1 ft. 6 in. at 12.54 a.m. (Thursday).

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VOL. IV NO. 68 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1949. Price 20 Cents

MILK OFF THE RATION

British Government Lifts Restrictions

London, Mar. 22.—More ration relaxations for Britons were announced today. The President of the Board of Trade, Mr Harold Wilson, called it a "bonfire of controls."

"Until further notice," Britons may have all the milk they want, the Minister of Food, Mr John Strachey, announced. The present ration is 2½ pints a week for adults and five pints for children. Milk was "off the ration" for three weeks last spring.

Private industry benefited through the "bonfire" too. Government control over more than 50 raw materials was lifted and a few items which the Government has been handling itself were turned back to private dealers. These include synthetic rubber, pine oil, rosin and turpentine.

Mr Wilson told Parliament that the scrapping of these controls will do away with 930,000 Government permits and licences a year and will allow 320 civil servants to be released for other jobs.

SELF-SERVICE SHOPS

He offered no estimate of the time and manpower it will save in private industry.

Mr Strachey disclosed that the Government has also decided to let grocers remodel their shops up to a maximum cost of £3,000 each to turn them into self-service stores

The Government has previously restricted building almost solely to the construction and repair of houses or vital factories.

The self-service shops would result in a saving of manpower as the British housewife, using a large shop now, has to go to separate counters for fish, meat, poultry, bread and vegetables and be served in person by an assistant.

But as a reminder that life still has its grim side here despite recent sharp improvements, Mr Strachey said that new food ration books will be issued in April, a little earlier than usual.—Associated Press.



LOUIS GOLDING

Maquis And Civil Guards In Conflict

La Coruna, Spain, Mar. 22.—Seven people were killed and one injured in fighting between Maquis and civil guards at various points of this North-western corner of Spain.

Simultaneously, 50 persons, including two women, went on trial for "aiding members of the armed bands dedicated to banditry."

Sources close to the civil governor said that five were killed, including two civil guardsmen, and one injured in an all-day fight on Sunday which began in the mountains and ended in the town of Orenge (population 28,000).

Both sides used pistols, sub-machine guns and grenades in the fighting.

The Maquis took revenge tonight when they raided the nearby town of Orol (population 7,000) and killed the Parish priest and a local Falange leader before returning to the hills without losses.

In the trial in La Coruna, the prosecution has demanded the death sentence for the leader of the 50 persons on trial, 30 years gaol for three others, and 12 years for the remainder, except the women. Two months gaol sentence is demanded for them.—Associated Press.

English Actress, Author & Scientists Refused Entry Into United States

DRAMATIC VISA BAN

London, Mar. 22.—The British film actress, Miss Patricia Burke, told a press conference here today that, with two British scientists and an author, she has been refused entry to the United States to attend the Cultural and Scientific Congress for World Peace in New York.

Miss Burke said the United States had refused to give her reasons for cancelling the visa she had obtained last week. "I think the reason is that I made a speech at the Internatinal Women's Day celebrations. It was the only public speech I have ever made."

Also banned with Miss Burke from the United States are the novelist, Mr Louis Golding, author of the best seller "Magnolia Street," Professor J. D. Bernal, Cambridge University calligrapher, and Dr J. G. Crowther, scientist and writer.

The banned delegates told their individual stories at the press conference.

Miss Burke, who was born in Italy and educated in England, Australia and the United States, said that she had been very honoured to be invited to go to the Congress but had been intending to go to the United States anyway to see a new Broadway show in which she may appear.

She had protested at the American Embassy yesterday when her visa was cancelled but had been told that the reason was "confidential."

GREETINGS TO READ

Miss Burke said she had greetings to read to the Peace Conference from Dames Sybil Thorndike and Edith Evans—both famous British actresses who had been invited but were unable to attend.

When she asked the Embassy whether she would be allowed to go to the United States soon on private business, they had told her: "Come back in about a month."

Professor Bernal said: "We were all invited individually by the Committee of the Congress. I was summoned to the Consulate, where I was asked about my political views. I informed them that they were well-known and could be found in my books. The whole affair of cancelling my visa took half a minute."

Professor Bernal said he hoped the British Government would take some action on the grounds that it was interference of the freedom of movement.

Dr Crowther said he went to the Embassy on March 9 with his official invitation, which was addressed to him as Chairman of the British Cultural Committee of Peace. He was given a visa for two years.

He was summoned to the Consulate yesterday and requested to give the passport back after being asked whether he had attended "the Wroclaw Congress in Russia."

NO EXPLANATION

Dr Crowther said he informed the official that Wroclaw was in Poland. Asked for an explanation of the cancellation, the official said it was based on confidential information and no explanation was necessary.

"This is a very serious blow to the Americans and the British. It is peculiar that any American can come into Britain without any questions but a Briton, who has been invited to America in the interests of peace, cannot enter the United States," Dr Crowther added.

Mr Louis Golding, the novelist, said he was in the habit of going to the United States, and had been there last in 1942. This new invitation coincided with a business trip to see his American publishers about his new novel "Honey for Ghost," and a visit to friends and relatives.

When he applied for a visa he had been received very cordially, but when he was called back to the American Embassy the attitude was "grim, unfriendly and remote."

NEVER READ MARX

He was asked if he attended the Wroclaw Conference last year. "I told them I was not a Red. I had never read Karl Marx. But I had gone to the conference in the interests of peace. The conference had been attended by people of the middle right and left, I told them.

"The Catholic writer, Grahame Green and Compton MacKenzie, would have gone if they had had no other commitments at the time.

"Two hours after my visa was granted, it was cancelled," he said.

Asked if the group planned any action, Professor Bernal said it was not a case for isolated action, because French and Italian scientists and authors were also involved. The American Committee of the Congress had urged the U.S. State Department to clarify the situation.

The United States Embassy in London said at midday that Mr Olaf Stapledon, who was also banned from the Congress, would after all be allowed to attend.

An Embassy spokesman said Mr Stapledon will have his visa, but the other three will not. The spokesman could not clarify whether there had been a sudden change of policy, or whether reports earlier in the day that all four visas, including Mr Stapledon's, had been withdrawn, were wrong.

NOT OFFICIAL

In Washington, the State Department explained today that delegates from Russian and the Eastern European countries were being admitted to the "Peace Conference" in New York because they were official representatives.

Those from Britain, France, Italy and Latin America were not official Government delegates.

Dr Thomas Mann, the German-born novelist and Nobel Prize winner, today sent a telegram from Los Angeles to the Chairman of the Committee sponsoring the conference, Dr Harlow Chapely.

Dr Mann said: "Should your fine and important undertaking actually be harmed by the assiduous enemies of peace I should feel most sorry not so much for you and us and our conference as for the nations and the peoples of the world."

Dr Mann is among the 560 artists, scientists, educators and religious leaders listed as sponsors of the conference.

CHAIRMAN'S PROTEST

Dr Shapley protested today against the denial of visas to 12 delegates, including four Britons. Twenty-two East European delegates, including Russians, have been granted permission to attend the conference, which opens next weekend.

A Washington spokesman said they would "fully represent the Communist cause" and any pro-Communist spokesman of other nations would merely "parrot" the Soviet views.

Dr Shapley said he had telegraphed Mr Dean Acheson, asking him to reconsider the ban, which was "inimical to our good relations with the great peoples of Western Europe and Latin America."

Sponsors of the Congress in New York said that, as a result of the latest refusals of visa facilities, the only foreign delegates certain to arrive were those from Eastern Europe and one from West Africa—Mr A. Armattoe, of the Lomeshire Research Centre for Anthropology and Race Biology.

ITALIANS REJECTED

Usually well informed quarters in Rome said today that the four members of the Italian delegation, refused visas for the Congress, are: Signor Giulio Einaudi, book publisher and son of the Italian President, Signor Luigi Einaudi; Maria Michi, cinema actress, Massino Girotti, actor, and Guiseppe de Santis, cinema director.

M. Dmitri Shostakovich, the Russian composer, and six other leading Soviet intellectuals, left Berlin tonight by an American Overseas Airline plane for New York to attend the Congress for World Peace.

For an hour before they took off, the delegates sat in the glass-fronted hall of Tempelhof Aerodrome, while an increasing stream of four-engined American airlift Skymasters landed with coal and food.

All the delegates refused to make any statement to press correspondents.—Reuter.

Trail Of Ice-Cream Wrappers Leads To Children's Arrest

Chatham, Kent, Mar. 22.—Two detectives followed a trail of ice-cream wrappers and nutshells for more than a quarter of a mile through the streets of Chatham. It led them to two boys, aged nine and 10 and their 12-year-old sister, who were accused at a juvenile court here today of breaking into two shops and stealing: 150 cartons of ice cream, 20 boxes of sweets, 11 pounds of peaches, 10 pounds of plums, 28 pounds of oranges, 10 pounds of apples and 10 pounds of nuts, 10 toy pistols, a toy drum, three brooches, four rubber balls, a toy car, nine toy watches, a top circus ring, three toy farm wagons, nine boxes of toy soldiers, four boxes of crackers and a toy mouse.

They also admitted that they had done £38 worth of damage to a piano, a car and a desk.

The two boys were ordered to be boarded out and their sister was placed on probation for two years. —Reuter.

Atomic Expert Says Russia Has Secret Of The Bomb

Washington, Mar. 22.—Soviet Russia not only has the atomic bomb but "may already be manufacturing atomic weapons," Dr David Bradley, an atomic scientist, said in a speech here today.

Dr Bradley is the author of a report on the Bikini atom bomb tests. He said the belief that the United States had a monopoly of atomic knowledge was one of the "four fated delusions" which left Americans unready for a possible atomic war.

"These four delusions are our greatest danger—greater than any scientific formula we might give away," Dr Bradley asserted in a broadcast, sponsored by the United States Conference of Mayors.

"These are the four delusions," Dr Bradley said.

"First, the myth of the 'secret'—the idea that we possess and can keep the secret of making the atomic bomb. Gentlemen, there is no secret. Russia, you may be sure, has the scientific secret of atomic bombs.

"Two, the question of industrial know-how. This is at best a very temporary advantage, since anyone who can make an atomic pile can make plutonium. An industrialised Russia, aided by captured German scientists, may already be manufacturing atomic weapons.

NOT ABSOLUTE

"Three, the delusion that atomic weapons are absolute weapons. They are not. They have clear limitations and obvious strategic and tactical uses.

"Four, the last, equally absurd and equally dangerous delusion is the current effort to play down the bomb—that atomic weapons are really of no great account."

Dr Bradley added that Mr David Lilienthal, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, would be permitted to publish the Commission's analysis of the effects of the weapons. The official report on the Bikini bomb tests should also be made available, the doctor said.

"Panic and hysteria are the result of ignorance," he added. "Keeping our people in ignorance will be about as successful as building a Maginot Line of cemeteries in the middle of the ocean."—Reuter.

"MISTRIAL" DEMANDS COUNSEL

Because The Judge Scratched His Head

New York, Mar. 22.—Defence counsel moved for a mistrial in the Communist conspiracy today on the grounds that the way the judge scratched his head and pulled his ear indicated that he was hostile to the defence.

The Federal Judge, Mr Harold Medina, quickly denied three defence motions for a mistrial and remarked wryly, "If you think I'm going to sit here like a bump on a log during this trial, you're mistaken."

The defence lashed out at Mr Medina's personal demeanour on the Bench after Richard Gladstein had delivered the final opening statement for the defence in the trial of the 11 top U.S. Communists.

Mr Medina then instructed the jury to bear in mind that the 11 National Board members of the Communist Party were being tried, "not as a group, not as a party, but as 11 separate human beings".

Mr Gladstein promptly charged that Mr Medina's remarks constituted a rebuttal of the argument, which was improper, and had the result of informing the jury to discard much of what the defence said. He then moved that a mistrial be declared.

"I WON'T DO IT"

"Well, I won't do it," said Mr Medina.

Fiery little Harry Sacher, counsel for the defence, then charged: "In every available means, Your Honour is conveying to the jury your lack of sympathy, if not hostility (to the defence)."

Mr Sacher said he had watched the judge "scratch his head, pull his ear and smile at statements made by defence counsel." He moved for a mistrial and Mr Medina denied the motion.

(Continued on Page 5)

Nanking's Likely Peace Delegates

Shanghai, Mar. 23.—The composition of the Nationalist peace delegation will be finally decided when the Premier, General Ho Ying-chin's Cabinet meets for the first time tomorrow, reliable Chinese sources here said today.

The latest speculation on likely delegates mention the following as probables, General Chang Chih-chung, Mr Shao Li-tse, General Huang Shao-hsiung, a close friend of Acting President Li Tsung-jen, and the Shanghai peace mission members, Dr W. W. Yen and Mr Chang Shu-chao.

A report that the Communist had sent a request to Nanking for early nomination of the peace delegation, though not officially confirmed, was nevertheless not considered surprising.

It was agreed among observers that the Communists had completed their preparations for the holding of peace talks and are now as anxious as the Nationalist Government to have the negotiations started.

It was thought that the official announcements of both delegations might be made on Friday.

POLICY REVISION

Another revision of China's financial and economic policy was likely shortly.

Before leaving for Nanking by train last night, the new Finance Minister, Mr. S. Y. Liu, was quoted by the Chinese press as saying that his predecessor, Mr Hsu Kan's, reform measures might need revising to cope with the present national situation.

He added that he would discuss the matter with the Premier, General Ho Ying-chin, and Acting President Li Tsung-jen, and later with local financial leaders here and high officials in Canton.

Gold bars and United States dollars declined fairly sharply late yesterday afternoon as a result of dumping by the Central Bank.

Gold bars slumped to GY517,000 per ounce and greenbacks to GY10,350. Commodity prices also fell somewhat, but the price of bread and rice rose to new heights with further big increases.

Hiked for the fifth time this month, bread was sold for GY950 per pound this morning, compared with GY700 yesterday, while rice hovered around GY70,000 per picul of 170 pounds weight.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

An Untimely Retirement

A PUBLIC petition is in the course of preparation which will appeal to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to intervene in order to enable Hongkong to retain the services of its present Colonial Secretary. The gesture is eloquent of the respect and admiration which the public has for Mr MacDougall and it is to be trusted that the Colonial Office will fully appreciate popular feelings in this matter. The announcement of Mr MacDougall's retirement from office has been made casually, but this has not lessened the shock to the public who have felt that in him the Colony has possessed the almost ideal Colonial Secretary. Reference was made at the annual meeting of the General Chamber of Commerce to Mr MacDougall's "inspired leadership,"—a tribute thoroughly deserved and fully in keeping with his post-war record in the administration. Hongkong, more today than ever before, cannot afford to lose a man of MacDougall's calibre: his wisdom, vision and enterprise which he has employed for the continued efficient running of the administration. Senior Government servants with wide knowledge and experience of the Colony are not easy to replace, and this is doubly true in the case of Mr MacDougall who has not only had long service in Hongkong, but who, notably over the past difficult three and a half years, has demonstrated a superb capacity for carrying through the most intricate administrative tasks with energy and tact. That Mr MacDougall should feel it necessary at this time to retire can, only be greatly deplored. He is, presumably, ending his career under the new scheme which permits retirement at the age of 45. That such a valued officer can be lost to the Service and the community at that age suggests the scheme is not entirely meritorious. The impression is that retirement at 45 is intended to facilitate the removal of "deadwood" from Government administrations, but there appears to be a danger of the scheme operating in reverse and permitting some of the best brains to be lost to the public at a time when they are most needed. Mr MacDougall's career of public service is such that it strikes the ordinary man in the street as being fantastic that he should feel it expedient to throw it up at this moment. His retirement means not only a loss to the community of Hongkong but to the whole colonial administrative service, and every endeavour should be made to persuade Mr MacDougall to change his mind and continue to devote his talents to the interests of the public which he has served so splendidly for 20 years. There is no doubt that the petition will be fully and spontaneously supported, and it will, in some measure, indicate the affection in which Mr MacDougall is held by the community of Hongkong. That alone should convince the Colonial Office of the urgent desirability of retaining, as long as possible, the services of our Colonial Secretary, for public confidence in an official is not lightly to be disregarded.

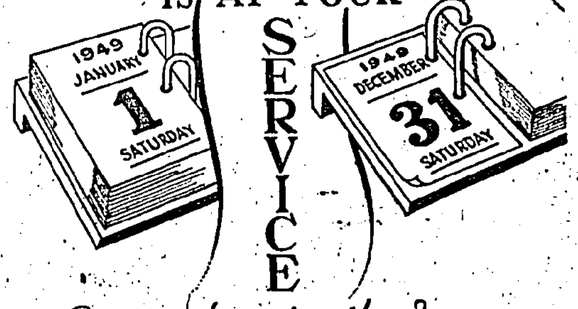
Says "Oh, Dear" On Winning Fortune

London, Mar. 22.—When told that he had won £40,232 in a football pool, Thomas Edward Nicholls, a tool setter, declared "Oh, dear."

That was his only comment.

Nicholls had had only a £4-win from the pools in two years. —Reuter.

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WOMANSENSE

Navy Mesh for Spring



Louise Barnes Gallagher

By PRUNELLA WOOD

LOUISE BARNES GALLAGHER, the American fashion designer, has more buttons than Bob Hope has (with bows) in The Paleface . . . she has more of them, and uses them in more ways, than anyone else in the fashion field.

Here she has used silver ball buttons to fasten the tunic of a two-piece navy mesh dress, making more buttons into trimming details for the pointed tabs at neck and waistline. A box line coat of the same fabric belongs to the dress, made with sweeping shawl collar and big patch pockets.

THE COMPARISON SHOPPER COMES TO LONDON

By EVELYN WEBBER

JUST before I left New York I bought a fireplace. It cost me £10 in Gimbel's popular-price department store. But when the fireplace arrived at my flat its paint was slightly scratched.

At the fashionable Altman's department store on Fifth Avenue a few days later I saw the identical fireplace—price at £12 10s. I went inside, told Altman's of my £10 purchase, and offered to buy their fireplace if they reduced it to Gimbel's price. They agreed immediately.

Altman's delivered their product with apologies for what might have been a gross overcharge ("Our comparison shoppers were not on the job"). Gimbel's apologised, too, for sending me a scratched article without the customary reduction in price—and came next day to remove their fireplace free.

This couldn't happen now in price-controlled Britain. Here the customer still has not gone back to being king. But signs of something like it have appeared in London shops.

With the return here of a buyers' market the department stores are employing American-style comparison shoppers—secret battalions to spy out prices of each other's shops.

Armed with coupons and money they burrow round Greater London, buying and making notes; checking quality, service and above all, price.

Price Reduction

WHEN they discover some competitor giving better value than their own employer, they buy the competing article regardless of cost, and rush it to their home base store for analysis.

The result? Nearly always a reduction of that store's price.

Majority of the new comparison shoppers are women. Average age, 20 to 40; salary £8 to £15 a week.

The lowest-paid scurry out only to buy articles specified by the merchandise managers. Others study for themselves competitors' advertisements and from them map individual comparison raids.

Some just go round looking for new ideas, watching customers in other stores, listening for their comments.

Anonymity

NEARLY all London department stores employ them now.

I went comparison shopping with one of them. She is Australian; pretty, blonde, 25 years old. "Please don't mention my name," she said as we arranged the expedition. "Just call me Joy. Our job depends on anonymity."

Joy works for one of the biggest department stores in Oxford Street. ("It caters for ordinary income groups earning about £7 or £8 a week.")

Before it advertises any of its goods she shops for similar lines in competing stores, making sure that those her employers want to publicise are newer and cheaper.

"I type a factual report when I get to my home base," she said. "It's terrible to see the disappointed look on the salesgirl's face; she never knows why she hasn't made the sale.

"Questions I ask her are not those of an expert—just some an intelligent housewife would put.

"We have 10,000 customers a week in my store; comparison shopping ensures they are never overcharged if we can help it."

Not Much Left

ARTICLES she buys are left entirely to her discretion. Heavy ones are sent home, never to the store. "What happens when we have finished with them? There isn't much left by then."

At the end of the day Joy said she was satisfied that we had seen all the silk scarves in the department stores; and also that those her firm intended to advertise were the cheapest and best.

Giving Yourself a Shampoo



Courtesy Fuller Brush Co.

Proper brushing plays a big part in the success of your home shampoo. Brush beforehand to remove surface dirt; later, brush dry to make hair shine.

By HELEN FOLLETT

WITH hair as short as short can be, with fewer ringlets and practically no rolls, the feminine head is not the problem that it has been in the past when the uppity hairdo prevailed. More and more women are washing their own hair, not always to save money, but to save time. With duties screaming at one, it isn't fun to sit for nearly an hour under a hair dryer.

Cosmetic chemists are aware of this trend, have offered a variety of mediums for renovating the glorious crown; creams, oils, liquid soaps. If a woman is going in for home treatments, she should learn to do a good job. A shampoo acts like a scalp treatment, rousing the blood streams, giving exercise to the fibres beneath the skin.

Start with a rousing brushing. The brush should be narrow with bristles set in groups if it is to be kept clean. The fastidious woman will have two. She will groom the hair strand by strand, holding the tress away from the head. Then she will give her head a three-minute friction.

Sometimes it is best to dilute the liquid soaps. If a cream is used, not more than a tablespoonful is necessary to fluff it up like egg white. Whatever is used must be thoroughly distributed. Rub it in well at the temples and along the nape line.

If the hair is excessively oily, there should be three applications, each one followed by a thorough rinsing with a bath spray and a strong current of warm water. There is no such thing as getting the hair too clean. If soap scum remains on the shafts, wave lines will disappear, the growth will cling to the scalp and lack lustre.

The vinegar rinse is a help. Fill the wash bowl with warm water, add three tablespoonfuls of vinegar, pour the rinse over the head with a cup. A spraying with clear water should follow.

They Are Trained To Be Wives

HERE'S a bouquet for the women of Denmark and Sweden:

Stage and screen writer Sidney Sheldon, who has just returned to Hollywood from a three-month European tour, believes they are "the most beautiful women in the world."

Sheldon, tall, handsome and only 31, recently signed a contract with MGM which will bring him a total of US$10,000,000 over a period of seven years. Unmarried, he's fair game for any Scandinavian women who care to return his admiration.

"You can walk one block in any city in Denmark or Sweden," says Sheldon, "and fall in love six times.

"Falling in love over there is much more satisfying than it is here. If you fall in love with an American girl,—you can almost bet you're letting yourself in for trouble. Our girls haven't the faintest idea of how to make a man happy, and wouldn't if they did.

"But you can fall in love almost anywhere in Europe and know that the girl you've picked will make you glad you chose her. There's no question about it, European girls are head and shoulders above American girls in looks, intelligence, culture and disposition.

Personal Preference

"Our young ladies, while very pretty and sophisticated, are trained to compete with men. They are trying to do a job they are not fitted by nature to do, and their frustration make them unhappy. On the other hand, European girls are trained to make men happy, to be partners with them, rather than competitors.

"All European girls are that way. The only difference is in personal preference as to type. Me, I like those beautiful blonde Scandinavian girls the best."

Sheldon's marriage to an American girl ended in divorce. "If I ever get married again," he promises, "I'm going back to Europe and find me a woman who wants to be a wife."

Next autumn Sheldon is going to make a three-month tour of South America. He may change some of his ideas then, especially as to the habitat of the world's most beautiful women. "But I don't think I'll ever change my idea about American girls," he says, "unless they change themselves."

Sheldon won an Academy Award last year for the screen play of "The Bachelor and the Bobbysoxer." Currently he is scripting "Annie Get Your Gun" for MGM.

Guiding Brings New Hope To Handicapped Girls

By MARGARET LAWRENCE

AN Australian girl guide who suffers from severe spastic paralysis and is almost completely dumb taught herself the morse code in three days, and is now teaching it to two crippled girls. She has passed all her second class tests, and is well on the way towards her first class badge.

She is Diane Mendelsohn, capable and enthusiastic patrol leader of a company of Extension Guides, all of whom are physically disabled girls. Although she has very little control over her hands and can write only shakily, she manages to hit the typewriter keys, and types out all her messages to members of her patrol.

Australia has no keener guides than Diane and her fellow-members of the Extension Guide movement, which has branches in each of the Australian states. The Victorian branch was established in 1926 by a leading physio-therapist, and has six companies, with 130 members.

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Some of the companies comprise children in institutions such as the Children's Orthopaedic Hospital and the Deaf and Dumb Institute. The others are Post Companies functioning by correspondence, for country children and those confined to their own homes. There are also two Post companies of Brownies and a Post Old Guides Group.

Extension Guiders wear the same uniforms as other guides and, wherever possible, do the same proficiency tests. The girls themselves are very insistent that the tests shall not be made any easier for them. If their disability makes a certain test impossible, an equally difficult test is devised. For instance, one of the Brownie tests to develop good posture is skipping. The alternative test for those who cannot skip is to walk a certain distance with a book on their heads; those who cannot walk have to balance a matchbox on the ends of their noses.

Highlight of the Extension Guiders' year is their week's holiday camp. It is held at a craft hostel set among ti-tree scrub and gum trees on the shores of Port Phillip Bay, 26 miles southeast of Melbourne. Members go swimming, make light work of their camp chores, go for drives and hikes, work for their badges, and generally have a grand time together.

There is a wonderful air of friendliness and helpfulness about this camp. Girls who are only slightly crippled will compete for the privilege of wheeling others in wheel chairs around the grounds, while those who have passed their own tests are eager to help beginners with theirs. As one lass on crutches said: "I guess the disabilities we have in common give us a greater understanding of each other."

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One of the happiest members of the last camp was Shirley Coller, a tall girl with one leg shorter than the other who lives on a farm near the Eildon Weir, about 100 miles northeast of Melbourne. Shirley, who is making her first camp, has passed about half her second class tests, and practises every morning for her tracking test.

The camp brought Shirley her first meeting with her patrol leader by correspondence, Margaret Lowe, who is in her seventh year as a guide. Margaret, who has both legs in irons and walks on crutches, has all her second class badges and is working for her first class first aid badge. She and Shirley each embroidered their own company badge of the "bell bird."

Guiding is the main interest in life for most of these girls. By building up their confidence and encouraging their skills, it has done a great deal to help them overcome their disabilities.

HOME & BEAUTY SUGGESTIONS

One of the best beauty treatments for the face is a thorough soap and water cleansing. Use a neutral soap, wash with warm or hot water, to open the pores. Work up a lather with the soap. You may rub this in and let it dry for extra-cleansing action. Then rinse off with cool water, to close the pores.

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Sunshine is a natural bleach, and clothes dried out of doors usually need no other. Extra moisture left in clothes after the final rinsing increases the bleaching action of the sun.

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A length of rubber hose, cut down the middle, and fastened to the teeth of a saw when it it not in use, is good insurance that the teeth will not be bent and broken the next time it is to be used.

• • •

After a session in the noonday sun, give your skin a lubricating treatment to keep it soft and smooth. Mineral oil applied lightly with the fingertips helps to prevent its drying out.

Let's Eat

BY IDA BAILEY ALLEN

Old-Fashioned Corned Beef

"CHEF, isn't this the day we planned to have a corned beef and vegetable dinner?"

"Oui, Madame." He stepped into the cold pantry and came out with a large covered crock. He removed the cover, took a big kitchen fork and lifted out a fine-looking piece of beef which he carefully placed on a platter.

"Here we have the corned beef, a nice 4 lb. piece of brisket. And see the colour, Madame. It is not red. That is because I did not use any saltpetre. Instead, I corned it in a simple heavy brine of rock salt and water. We will find that the meat has a better flavour, and will be more tender."

Old-Fashioned Method

"That's a good old-fashioned method for home corning beef," I approved. "It's quite money-saving, too. For you can often buy a large pot-roast, cook half for Sunday dinner, and corn the remainder to use later in the week."

"And this is so easy to do," the Chef went on. "I dissolved just enough rock salt in hot water, so a medium-sized raw potato would float on the top. Then I cooled this salt water. Next I put the brisket of beef in the large crock and covered it with the salt water. The beef floated also. So I put a plate on top and weighted it down. I then covered and let it stand in the cold pantry for 3 days and 3 nights. Now it is ready to cook."

In Cool Place

If you do not have a crock, use a large bowl or a glass or enamelled refrigerator dish. The meat must stand in a cool place, but not necessarily in the refrigerator. If you like well-salted corned beef, let it stay in the brine 4 days; if a light corned flavour is what you want, 2 days is sufficent. In any case, you will find the flavour vastly superior to that of corned beef as commercially sold.

Dinner

Grape Fruit Cardinal
Corned Beef with Vegetables
Horseradish-Mustard
Potatoes Turnips Beets
Corn Muffins Butter or Margarine
Fluffy Orange Custard
Coffee or Tea Milk (Children)

All Measurements Are level
Recipes Serve Four

Corned Beef with Vegetables

Rinse 4 to 5 lb. corned beef (brisket or any other cut) in cold water. Tie into shape and place in a large kettle. Cover with cold water; heat to boiling point; and skim off any froth. Simmer until tender, about 4 hrs.

At the end of 3¾ hrs. remove some of the liquid and boil the beets in it until tender, about 45 min. for new beets. (Old beets should be plain boiled or pressure cooked.) Put peeled white potatoes and thick slices of peeled turnips in with the corned beef and slow-boil 30 min. Then on top and around the beef and vegetables, put inch-thick slices of well washed cabbage, the core removed. Cover and cook 15 min. longer.

To serve, drain the beef and place in the centre of a very large platter. Pile the potatoes at each end, and arrange the turnip and cabbage around the meat. Peel and slice the beets, dust with pepper, and serve in a separate dish.

Corn Muffins

Measure 3 tbsp. bacon fat into a mixing bowl and melt it. Stir in 1 c. corn meal, 1 c all-purpose flour, 1 tbsp. sugar, 3 tsp. baking powder and 1 tsp. salt. Beat 1 egg. Add 1¼ c. milk and stir in. Beat well. Transfer to well oiled muffin pans and bake 25 min. in a moderate oven, 375 F. Makes 1 dozen small muffins.

Corned Beef Salad Platter

Slice cold corned beef thin and place overlapping in centre of a platter. At one end heap potato salad, seasoned with grated onion, celery seed and parsley, and put together with boiled salad dressing. At the other end, heap a salad made of remaining left-over vegetables put together with French dressing. Decorate with pickled beets and shredded lettuce.

Fluffy Orange Custard

First make and cool plain soft custard. To do this, scald 1 pt. milk in a double-boiler. Beat together 2 egg yolks, 1 tsp. cornstarch, ½ tsp. salt and ¼ c. sugar. Slowly stir into this the scalded milk. Return to the double-boiler, and cook and stir about 3 min., or until the mixture coats the spoon. Remove at once and chill, covered. Then add ½ tsp. flavouring. Just before serving, fold in the stiffy beaten whites of 1 or 2 eggs. To make it fluffy arrange segments of chilled orange in sherbet glasses or sauce dishes. Pour over the custard and top each serving with 1 orange segment.

Trick Of The Chef

To make an excellent entree from a little left-over corned beef—cut it in dice; heat in white sauce, season with a little table mustard, add some drained tinned peas, reheat and serve on flaky rice.

WORLD NEWS IN PICTURES



READY FOR ACTION—Alongside a pier at the naval station in San Juan, Puerto Rico, three giant tank landing ships of the United States Atlantic fleet prepare for an "assault landing." Nearby Vieques Island was to be invaded as part of manoeuvres in which 120 ships, several hundred aircraft and 35,000 men participated.



£50 WORTH — Lovely Marjorie Woodworth cuddles about £50 worth of a future fur coat. This little chinchilla was an entry in the sixth annual Live Chinchilla Show in Inglewood, California.



SOLEMN OCCASION—Pope Pius XII greets Franklin C. Gowan (centre) United States permanent representative to the Holy See, at a special audience at the Vatican. All members of the Vatican diplomatic corps assembled to express their countries' views about the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty.



FRIENDLY KISS — At a meeting which celebrated Brotherhood Week in New York, nine-year-old Mary Sussman, who represents the Children's International Group as Miss Canada, introduces a friend to singer Jane Froman. The eight-weeks-old puppy, "Amity," is dressed for the occasion with a satin ribbon.



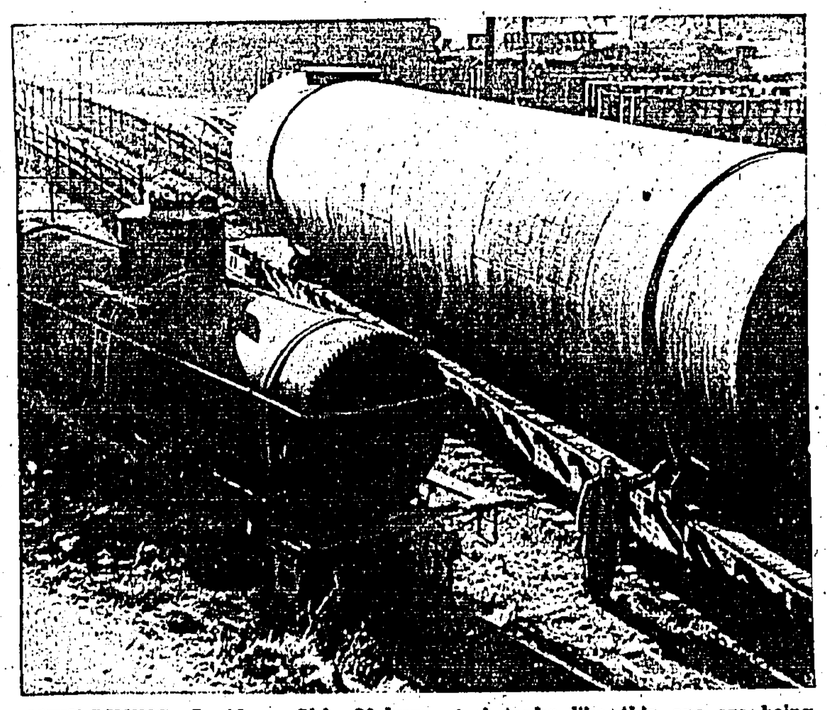
TWICE QUEEN—Mary Jane Mills, student at Barry College in Miami, Florida, was queen of that city's Biscayne Bay Regatta. Mary Jane was also the "Theme Girl" for the Miami Royal Poinciana Festival in 1948.



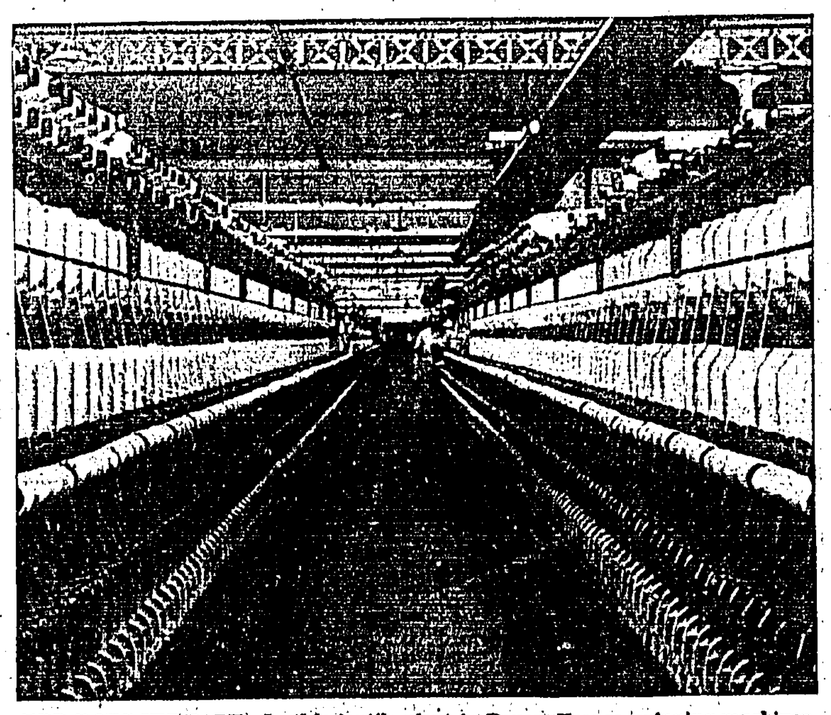
WRAPPED IN FLAME—Under a protective spray of water, two firemen climb a ladder through a smoke screen in New York to battle flames shooting out of a high window. Hauling a hose with them, they crawl towards their flaming objective. One fireman was injured in the fire, which destroyed a fur dyeing plant.



STUDENTS ABROAD—American girls, all students of the Villa Schifanoia Graduate College of Art, pose on one of the many beautiful stairways with two of the nuns who instruct there. The villa, in Florence, Italy, was donated to the Dominican Sisters by Myron Taylor, United States Envoy to the Vatican.



NEW LINING—In Akron, Ohio, 20 huge steel tanks like this one are being rubber-lined to protect them from the acids they will carry. Each tank has a capacity six times that of a standard railway tank wagon, left. The new tanks are 71 feet long, and will hold 60,000 gallons.



ERP DOES ITS PART—In this textile plant in Rouen, France, spinning machines refine cotton thread once again. With the arrival of United States cotton and coal, financed by American loans and grants, French cotton mills like this one have pushed towards prewar production and employment.



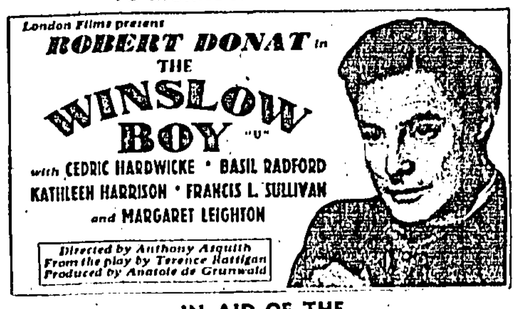
LEE THEATRE

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BOOKING HOURS: 11.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. daily

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TO-MORROW AT 9.30 P.M.



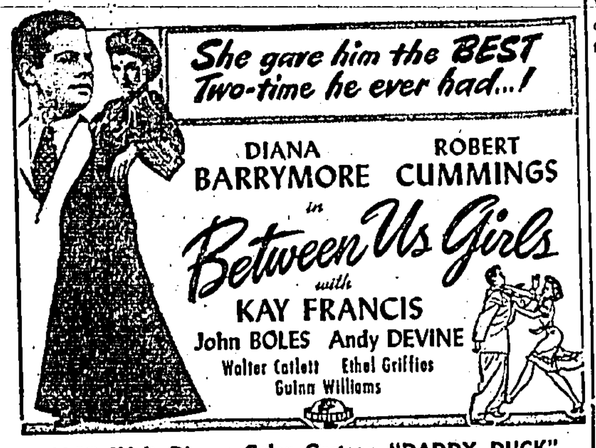
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A MAN ABOUT THE HOUSE

Starring:
Margaret JOHNSTON
Felix AYLMER

The ROXY THEATRE
THE MOST MODERN DELUXE CINEMA IN THE COLONY



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Sitting on the Fence.... by

NATHANIEL GUBBINS

ACCORDING to reports leaking through cracks in the iron curtain concealing the Russian paradise from unhappy wretches like us, medal-mania holds the Soviets in a tighter grip than it ever held Germany when massed millions of gloomy perverts were ruled by lunatics like Reichmarshal Goering, who (so it was said) wore medal ribbons on his night-shirt.

For instance, there is a new aristocracy, which includes Honourable Coal Miner E. P. Baryshnikov, who wears the Order of Lenin and the Medal for Valiant Labour in the Great Patriotic War on what is described as the miner's dress uniform.

It is also reported that on the collective farms it is quite a common experience to meet a Znatnaya Doyarka, or a Distinguished Cow-Milking Woman to you.

★ ☆ ★

"Oh, Natasha, what a pretty medal you are wearing. Is it for bravery?"

"Yes. It is for bravery at the wash tub. I am Distinguished Washerwoman Number One of all the washerwomen of Stalinogorsk."

"How proud you must be, Natasha. Now you are among the honoured citizens, you must meet some very interesting people."

"Yes. It is a great privilege to be among those honoured by our most holy Stalin. Yesterday, I met the most distinguished dustman in all Russia. The day before, I met Moscow's Most Intellectual Milkman, who can recite Karl Marx backwards."

"How wonderful, Natasha. What a splendid new life is opening for you, thanks to the wisdom and benevolence of our great Father Stalin."

"It is indeed wonderful. Sometimes I think that to be on speaking terms with the First Laundress in the Land is too good for a silly little thing like me."

"You are too modest, Natasha. Are you not a Distinguished Washerwoman? One day you may be the First Laundress yourself. Who is this coming down the street? A field-marshal?"

"No. He is an Honourable Distinguished Boilermaker First Class with Oak Leaves and mentioned seven times in the factory manager's despatches. Good morning, Honourable Boiler-maker."

"You know him then?"

"Yes, I know him."

"Oh, how I wish I were a washerwoman instead of a despicable novelist."

"One day I will teach you how to be a washerwoman if you will teach me to write novels. Wouldn't that be wonderful?"

"Wouldn't it?"

Paws across the sea

BEING a letter from Manhattan Mouser, New York underworld tom and American playcat, to a friend in the United States.

★ ☆ ★

Hiya Bud,

So here I am, in London City, with Lottie, my honey cat. And, believe me, Bud, she is a honey all right.

Take a peek at them green eyes like headlamps, that little brown tip-tilted nose, that white chest and paws, that fluffy tail, and those million-dollar tabby and white legs. And, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, what a chassis.

Like most English dolls, she is not too ritzy and smart, but is quiet, and is inclined to talk too much about her folks as if she wanted me to know she was respectable. As if I care if she is respectable.

She says to me that her boss is a noospaper columnist and expects me to curl up with awe and admiration.

When I tell her that practically half the population of the United States are noospaper columnists, and that in Hollywood it is as high as 75 percent, the other 25 percent being film stars who read about themselves in the columns, she folds up on this line of conversation.

Then she shoots another line about her swell connections and the big shots she's met in the theatrical world and wants to know if I am interested in mousie and culture and all that kinda dope.

I say "Listen, honey. I am a good-time cat with an eye for a swell chassis and a nose for a good dinner. Right now we will have a good dinner, and nuts to culture."

So I take her along to a ritzy joint I know, and before the doorman can stop us we are streaking along the pile carpet, through the lounge, where ex-millionaires are glooming up on pink gins, and down into the kitchens, where the chef recognises me from wartime days.

The chef is very pleased to see me and tickles my ears and says the mice have got out of hand while I have been away. So I catch him a couple mice while he is breaking an egg in a pan and he is so pleased at this quick, sure-fire performance that he cracks another egg and makes a two-egg chicken omelette for me and Lottie, my honey cat.

While we are eating this omelette, I am introduced to a la-di-da stuffed shirt called Sir fluff-fluff an English bum-cat of the old school, who thinks work is for the lower classes, and spends his life watching the mice run by.

Like all bums, he doesn't like to miss a free dinner, and tries to horn in on our omelette. I give him the old left-right-left and a nip in the kidneys which knocks him cold.

Tonight we are invited to a party on the swellest tiles in London.

After that we shall be alone, me, my honey cat, and the moon.

M. M.

Pastorale

"SHEPHERDS," writes a chap earning a crust in a magazine devoted to agricultural matters, "are more temperamental than prima donnas. 'Red sky at night, shepherd's delight' is literally true. While they delight in seasonable weather, they are deeply depressed when it is unseasonable."

Which means that English shepherds have a pretty tough time.

★ ☆ ★

Wet and warm in January,
Shepherds are not very merry.

If February's dry and snappy,
All the shepherds feel unhappy.

If March should come in like a lamb,
Hear the shepherds roaring "Damb."

Sunny April without showers
Dang the sheep and dang the flowers.

Shepherds do not shout hooray,
At snow and sleet and frosts in May.

Shepherds have been known to swoon
In snowstorms on the First of June.

Cloudy days throughout July,
Shepherds cry and cry and cry.

Little sunshine in August,
Desperate shepherds quench their thust.

In September too much rain,
All the shepherds go insane.

A hot October always sees
Shepherds hanging from the trees.

If November has no fogs,
Maddened shepherds kick their dogs.

In warm December willows weep,
Blast the something something sheep.

Party conversation

"MY husband says he's paying so much income tax that he must have at least six major operations, all his teeth out, a set of dentures, and a wig before he can get a quarter of his money's worth on health insurance."

"Margaret's father thinks there should be a whisky clause in the Atlantic pact which makes Scotch available only to member countries."

"You don't get any extra eggs till the grocer's family can't eat any more."

"I suppose now we find that blood sports are not confined to one class only we shall have to put up with them."

"It's very clever of Cripps to put the higher civil servants into a higher tax group. He'll take all their money back, and get them to work harder for nothing."

"Of course, it can't be true what the psychiatrists say—that there's some obscure sexual motive in hunting. All these healthy people, I mean...."

"Who was it said that a psychiatrist has the same dirty key to open all doors?"

"Margaret's father says a whisky clause in the Atlantic pact may be tough, but when the safety of the world is at stake you can't pull your punches."

"I don't see how the Government can expect middle-class support next time unless income tax is reduced. It's like asking a man to vote for his own execution."

"My husband says some taxation in the higher income groups is only a drop in the Inland Revenue ocean. He says it's more spite than sound finance."

"You can't legislate against people who like to see animals killed by hounds. It just means that they haven't grown up."

"You might just as well try to legislate against little boys who pull the wings off flies."

"The only way to stop it is by murderous taxation. They're stopping people writing books that way. So why not blood sports?"

"Margaret's father says one little hint in the Atlantic pact. 'No signature, no Scotch,' would line half the world up against the vodka group."

NINTH INSTALMENT

LOST ILLUSION

— By —

FREDA UTLEY

MARRIAGE and divorce prior to the tightening laws in 1936 entailed merely a visit to Zaks for registration, or, in the case of marriages, it was enough to register with the House Committee of the apartments as husband and wife jointly occupying a room or flat. This constituted a common law marriage, and by it the wife secured the same rights as if the marriage had been registered at the Zaks.

Arcadi and I were thus married in common law. We never registered at the Zaks because I had wished to retain my British passport to travel abroad freely. Russian citizens had great difficulty in obtaining visas. Later it became a question of its value in permitting me to escape from the Soviet Union.

Until 1935 divorce in Russia required only a statement at Zaks by either husband or wife that the marriage was annulled. Today it is harder to obtain a divorce without the mutual consent of the other, and the fee for a divorce has been made almost prohibitive for the mass of the population. Only the rich can afford several divorces.

Most of the domestic relations cases before the courts arise from the difficulties caused by the housing problem. Even when both husband and wife wish to separate, it is almost impossible for them to do so because neither can find new quarters.

WOMEN'S LIFE

THE abolition of legal abortions since 1935 has, of course, made life for Russian women very much harder and intensified the housing shortage. The upper classes, as elsewhere, are affected little by the change. They can buy contraceptives, or they have a high enough "cultural level" to avoid excessive childbearing.

But the women of the working class and the peasants now either have to resort secretly to unqualified abortionists or maintain families of five, six, seven or more children in one room.

For five months Arcadi and I shared our kitchen and bathroom with Arcadi's divorced wife and child, and with another family of three who occupied the third room in the flat.

My most lasting memories of life in Moscow concern the three years Arcadi and I spent in our two rooms on Ordinka, near the Moscow River. They were our first home together and our last, for we did not secure our long-promised flat until three months before Arcadi's arrest in April 1936.

Badly built, with doors and windows of unseasoned wood which would not shut properly, unpapered and thinly whitewashed walls, these two rooms were home.

By American or English standards, we lived in a squalid tenement house. But by Soviet Russian standards we were housed as Communist aristocrats. We had the luxury of gas for cooking instead of a smelly oil stove. And we had a bathroom with a lavatory, which we shared with only one other family.

BUG-CATCHING

WITH the Barskis in the third room of our apartment, we even managed to clear the flat of the bugs which haunt most apartment houses in Moscow.

We could not avoid occasionally bringing home bugs on our clothing after standing in the crowded street cars. I protected my baby by standing the legs of his cot in tin cans filled with water.

I considered myself an expert bug-catcher. They bite you at night in bed, and the art of catching them consists in switching on the light and turning down the bed-clothes all in a second. You then catch the bug in the act of retreating at top speed into the darkness under the mattress.

At first we had a gas water heater. Unfortunately, one morning a month before my son was born, it blew up. A shower of bricks fell around me.

Our flat was on a top floor lately added to old house. Above us was a great loft with beams which barely kept out the rain and snow. In that freezing cold loft at night, there would be dozens of starving peasants or beggars—mostly children. These wretched little waifs came daily to plead for crusts.

Shivering with cold, they held out old tin cans for hot water. If one gave a piece of sugar to these poor children an ecstatic smile would break over their pale faces. Periodically the police would hound them out of their wretched shelter into the street. After a few days there would be others.

HUMAN WRECKS

ONE afternoon in November 1933, I saw police driving some wrecks of humanity down into the cellar of our building. More and more people were brought in as evening fell.

The police were rounding up all the beggars and the homeless in the city prior to the November Revolution celebrations. The foreigners must not see the starving, homeless hordes, so they were all to be dumped outside Moscow.

Late in the evening trucks arrived, and the beggars were pushed into them—some sick, others lame. Many were children. They were taken 40 or 50 miles outside Moscow and dumped on the road to die, like abandoned dog so cats. If the stronger ones managed to struggle back to Moscow, the celebrations would be over by the time they got there.

I shivered with icy foreboding, and although I knew that escape from the Soviet Union was impossible, I still went on deluding myself that some day, somehow, Arcadi and I might escape from the horrors of Stalin's Russia.

In those first years in Moscow, I had believed that one day we should all get out into the free world again. Now I knew we were inextricably caught in the Soviet web. I myself could escape, but since Arcadi could not it was futile to long for the free world we had both once lived in and foolishly left.

Illusions and false political beliefs had originally brought us together. Disillusionment, trouble, and hardship, the need each of us had of the other, and an attraction which the years had welded into a oneness of body and spirit, had firmly united us.

Arcadi would again and again tell me to save myself, to leave him and go back to England. But he knew I never would. I would have given up almost anything in the world, except Arcadi, to get out of Russia.

BETTER AND WORSE

IN the last years of my life in Moscow, conditions were both better and worse than in the days when I first lived the life of a Russian. But there was an ever increasing differentiation in the living standards between the rulers and the ruled, and between the skilled workers and the unskilled.

There was less actual starvation, but the privileged were now more privileged, and class distinctions more openly displayed.

Earlier the masses were not fully aware of the great gulf between them and their rulers. Luxury had not been openly displayed, but hidden and unavowed. Now it was obvious to the dullest intelligence that the fruits of their labour were not for the working class, and probably never would be.

My son was born on March 10, 1934, and I began the happiest period of my life in Moscow. With my son's birth I began to accept life, to be more restful and more calm.

I could even forget politics for long periods and become absorbed in Jon's needs and his development.

Jon's birth was a long and painful business. I was 36, and he weighed nine pounds. I spent two nights and a day in a ward with nine other women who screamed most of the time.

I had to bring my boy up on a book and with my mother's help, for Russian ideas about babies were almost mediaeval.

(Copyright. To Be Concluded Tomorrow)

NANCY Detour By Ernie Bushmiller





Hotels Ordinance Unlikely To Cause Difficulty

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI HOTELS LTD'S MEETING

"The Hotels Ordinance, 1949, has now been enacted and our business will henceforth be governed by its provisions, but no difficulty is envisaged in conforming to its requirements, in fact conversely the Ordinance makes clear certain ambiguities of the past, and there should be a more harmonious relationship in the future between Government, residents and hotel managements," said the Hon Sir Man-kam Lo (Chairman) addressing the annual meeting of the Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited, at Exchange Building this morning.

A profit of $3,040,049.52 on the year's working was reported.

In his speech the Chairman said:

The Profit and Loss Account before you is in two parts, the first dealing with the ordinary trading of our business for last year, 1948, the second part bringing into account items of extraordinary revenue and provisions effected and the appropriations recommended by your Board for adoption at this Meeting.

As you will see the Balance of Working Account has increased by $481,890.92 compared with the 1947 figure, while also included on the credit side is the item of $234,000.—a dividend received during the year from our subsidiary Company, the Grand Hotel des Wagons-Lits, Limited, of which more hereafter.

Other items in this account, both by way of revenue and expenditure, do not call for any special comment except perhaps Depreciation, which shows a comparative increase of $195,239.45 and which I will refer to later.

The second part of this Account includes the profit of $587,684.89 realised on sale of RBL No. 168, Repulse Bay, a hitherto unproductive asset, less a deduction of $69,872.—representing the book value of RBL No. 77, the old Peak Hotel site, which was surrendered to Government in December last, the opinion of your Board being that rebuilding thereon would not be an economic proposition.

Including therefore the sums of $2,295,487.66 brought down and $226,748.77 brought forward from the preceding year less an amount of $46,151.10 for Property Tax 1948/49, $2,993,698.42 is available for appropriation, the recommendations in such regard being that $500,000 be transferred to General Reserve, $500,000, be placed to the Special Depreciation Reserve and the remaining balance of $1,993,698.42 be disposed of by paying a dividend and bonus of $1.50 per share involving $1,790,800.50, leaving $203,097.92 to be carried forward to the account for 1949.

The Balance Sheet before you has been drawn up mainly in conformity with the provisions of The Companies Act, 1948, now law in the United Kingdom and which in course of time will, no doubt, be followed in Hongkong.

FIXED ASSETS

There are several aspects of this account which require elucidation on my part and the primary one is in relation to the Company's Fixed Assets.

At the two previous Ordinary Yearly Meetings of this Company, shareholders submitted suggestions in relation to revaluation of these Assets and also the treatment of Rehabilitation Expenses. These matters have received your Board's earnest reconsideration and further expert advice has been obtained thereon, the final opinion, after lengthy review, being that the figure of $1,102,055.—, which appeared as "Rehabilitation Suspense Account" in the Balance Sheet for 1947, could properly be capitalised, and this sum in addition to similar expenditure incurred in the past year has accordingly been so treated.

As a result depreciation charges to which I earlier drew attention have naturally been subject to increase when compared with 1947. Further, it was considered desirable that the Land in the Colony of Hongkong on which the Company's main properties stood should be revalued and this has been given effect to as disclosed on the Schedule of Fixed Assets appended to the Accounts now before you. I feel certain that Shareholders will endorse our view that the revaluation is conservative.

As to our buildings and their contents, it was felt that for Balance Sheet purposes these Fixed Assets should not be written up on the basis of estimated replacement costs, especially as at the present time there is little or no stability in price levels; further, due regard had to be paid to their revenue-producing potentialities.

In short your Board is of the opinion that times are too unsettled and prices fluctuate too widely to enable the values of our Fixed Assets to be reassessed with any degree of exactitude.

WAR LOSSES

The writing up of the Land values referred to resulted in an accretion of $2,599,012.—of which sum the amount of $2,403,331.04 has, in conjunction with a transfer from Contingencies Reserve of $88,445.-01, no longer necessary for provision purposes, been utilised to write off in to the "War Losses" of $2,489,777.55 which thus make their last appearance in the Company's Balance Sheets. The Schedule of Fixed Assets previously referred to shows in some detail how such of the Company's Assets now stand in the Books and should be of informative value to Shareholders.

I would submit that the Balance Sheet does not call for any further special comment from me, the various items to which I have not alluded being self-explanatory.

The year under review was not without its difficulties and although our revenue from bedrooms was of course well maintained, restaurant revenue suffered a comparatively serious decline in the summer months which, however, the succeeding months remedied mainly because of the influx of persons from China during that period and the latter portion of our revenue is being well maintained at the moment.

The subject of rates for Hotel bedrooms became rather a vexed one in the course of the past year, naturally enough when so many residents today have little option but to reside in Hotels instead of their pre-war homes. As we are all aware Government appointed a Committee to advise on this complex matter, its recommendations in so far as they effect this Company being generally to the effect that rates should remain as they were.

This view Government accepted in principle and our position remains, generally speaking, unaltered. The Hotels Ordinance, 1949, has now been enacted our business will henceforth be governed by its provisions, but no difficulty is envisaged in conforming to its requirements, in fact conversely the Ordinance makes clear certain ambiguities of the past and there should be a more harmonious relationship in the future between Government, Residents and Hotel Managements.

CAPITAL CONVERTED

With regard to our subsidiary Company, the necessary legislative sanction was obtained for the conversion of its Capital into Hongkong Currency, and Accounts showing its position at June 30, 1947, are annexed to those before you and these I venture to say are quite satisfactory. That Company, at its last Annual Meeting held on June, 16, 1948, declared a dividend of HK$10.—per share and this Company's proportion thereof is shown in its Profit and Loss Account.

I would remind you, however, that this was the first time the subsidiary had paid a dividend since 1940, which factor influenced the dividend recommended and it is extremely unlikely any such a high return will again be possible. That Company's Accounts for the year to June 30, 1948, are now complete and it should be possible to hold its next Annual Meeting in the near future. Communications with the Hotel in Peiping have still been possible of maintenance, but apart from the welcome news that the property is safe one can only conjecture as to its business prospects in the current year.

An announcement was made in the Press a couple of weeks ago of your Board's intention to issue the balance of the Company's Authorised Capital by offering such shares to shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every four shares held. The offer will be conveyed to shareholders as soon as possible after this meeting and the amount of $7.50, the full face value of the shares, will become payable on acceptance.

In explanation I would point out that the Company is still faced with considerable expenditure in order to fulfil its rehabilitation programme, also it has been decided to air-condition the First Floor and Roof Garden of the Hongkong Hotel and it is felt these requirements should be met by a call of further Capital rather than from surplus working revenue and recourse to overdraft facilities.

Provision was made in the Accounts under review for the payment in 1949, of the New Year Bonus to the Chinese staff of the Company and this has already been made. I hope you will approve of this and also agree to the payment of the usual bonus to the Foreign staff.

There appears to be nothing further calling for useful comment on my part and I therefore beg to propose the adoption of the Report and Accounts as presented, that a Dividend of $1.—per share, free of tax, be paid on 1,193,867 shares, the payment of a bonus of 50 cents on the similar number of shares from the profits not liable to Hongkong Tax and from the then remaining balance of the year's profit of $1,203,097.92 the sum of $500,000.—be transferred to General Reserve, $500,000.—be placed to a Special Depreciation Reserve and the sum of $203,097.92 carried forward to the 1949 Account.

SECONDER'S SPEECH

Seconding the report and statement of accounts, Mr A. Hillaly said: I feel confident I am voicing the sentiments of the shareholders present when I state that the management is to be congratulated upon the result of the year's trading and the appropriation of the balance at the credit of Profit and Loss account.

It is fortunate that we are in a position to write off our War Losses account by slightly appreciating our land values. The writing up has been done upon a very conservative basis and, doubtless, when values become more stabilised, this matter will again engage the attention of the Board.

The air-conditioning of the popular portions of the Hongkong Hotel will commend itself to our patrons and, I feel confident, will attract them during the summer months.

Before formally seconding the proposal made by you, Sir, I express the hope the Board will not proceed with the immediate issue of the new shares but will leave the matter in abeyance until some future date.

RE-ELECTIONS

On the proposal of Major C. W. L. Way, seconded by Mr T. H. G. Brayfield, Mr D. C. Davis was re-elected a Director.

On the proposal of Mr E. Grant Smith, seconded by Mr C. C. Blake, Messrs Percy Smith & Co. were reappointed auditors at a remuneration of $10,000.

Present at the meeting were: the Hon Sir Man-kam Lo (Chairman) Sir Robert Ho Tung, Mr Horace Kadoorie (representing Mr L. Kadoorie) Mr D. C. Davis, Mr H. R. Cleland (Directors), Mr F. C. Barry (Managing Director), Mr A. Sommerfelt (Secretary) and the following shareholders: Major C. W. L. Way, Messrs E. Grant Smith, Ezra Abraham, F. R. Zimmern, T. H. G. Brayfield, J. M. Nolasco da Silva, jr. T. B. Wilson, C. C. Blake, S. Hampden Ross, E. H. P. White, A. R. Ellis, A. Hillaly, I. E. Roberts, P. A. Roberts, Kok Sang Wu, C. N. Kong, H. S. Yung, Li Shiu-chung and Yen Su-king.

Court Order Restrains Mr Calwell

Melbourne, Mar. 22.—The High Court of Australia today granted an interim injunction restraining the Immigration Minister, Mr Arthur Calwell, from taking action to repatriate two Melbourne Chinese, ordered to leave Australia.

These were the first repatriation orders to be contested since the High Court upheld last week the appeal of Mrs Annie O'keefe, an Indonesian, against another order.

Mr Calwell today reasserted his intention of placing before the Cabinet amendments to the Immigration Act, which would place beyond dispute the Government's power to determine who should be permitted to enter and remain in Australia.—Reuter.

ARAB CHRISTIANS IN PALESTINE

Tel-Aviv, Mar. 22.—Of the 100,000 Arabs at present in Palestine, half are Christians and half are Moslems, an Israeli Minister for Religion spokesman told the Associated Press.

There are also about 1,000 Christian Armenians and 1,000 Christian Priests or nuns, mostly of European origin, in the Holy Land, he added.—Associated Press.

Robbery On Board Junk Described

Before Mr Justice Williams (Puisne Judge) and a jury at the Criminal Sessions this morning, Liu Kwai-sang, 20, and Liu Kam, 33, pleaded not guilty to charges of robbery by two or more, and possession of arms.

The charges allege that accused, together with others not in custody, robbed Nam Siu-hing of 2,500 catties of rice on December 31, 1948, and that they were in possession of two pistols on the same date without a licence.

Mr M. Heenan, Crown Counsel, assisted by Det. Insp. R. MacKenzie, is prosecuting. The accused are not legally represented.

The Prosecutor said that at about 8 p.m. on December 31 last, a junk owned by Nam Siu-hing left Im Ting, in Chinese territory with a cargo of 14 sacks of rice, totalling about 2,500 catties, for Shataukok. The vessel proceeded along Mirs Bay and about 9 p.m. was overtaken by another junk, which Crown Counsel referred to as the robber junk.

The rice-carrying junk was then ordered to stop. There was a display of firearms and the master and his crew would say that through fear they stopped, Counsel said.

Two of the robbers, both armed with pistols, then boarded the first junk and ordered the crew to row towards shore near a place called Ka Ken How, also in Chinese territory where the rice was transferred to the robber junk, which then sailed away.

However, the two robbers who had boarded the rice-carrying junk remained behind, for what purpose the Crown did not know, Mr Heenan said, but the inference was that they wanted to prevent an alarm being raised.

A few moments afterwards, firing from the shore was heard, whereupon the two robbers threw their weapons into the sea. After the firing ceased the junk set sail with the new unarmed robbers on board for Shataukok, where they were handed over to the Police.

Referring to the robber junk, Counsel said that it had been commandeered from its owner by the robbers, and as it sailed away it also heard the gun firing, whereupon the remaining two members of the gang jumped overboard. The junk then sailed to Shataukok where the stolen rice was returned to its rightful owner.

It was the Crown's case, said Mr Heenan, that the accused were the two robbers who boarded the junk and remained on it after the rice had been transferred. Further, although these incidents took place near Chinese territory, the Crown would bring evidence to show that all operative parts of the matter took place either at sea or below high water line, and further it was the Crown's case that the waters of Mirs Bay below high water line were Hongkong territorial waters and that the junk was originally intercepted and the rice transferred in Hongkong waters.

The trial is proceeding.

2,800 Want To Stay British

London, Mar. 22.—About 2,800 citizens of Eire have given notice to the Home Secretary, Mr James Chuter Ede, that they wish to remain British subjects after Eire leaves the Commonwealth, the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Jowitt, told the House of Lords today.

He added that the claim to remain a British subject could be made at any future date in the lifetime of the Eireann citizen concerned.

"Until he does so, unless of course he is a British subject under one of the other provisions of the British Nationality Act, he is regarded in this country as a citizen of Eire, and not an alien," Lord Jowitt said.

Legislation would be introduced soon to deal with the position of Eire citizens in Britain, he said.

He added that he understood the Eire Government intended to bring the Republic of Ireland Act—which severs the link with the Crown—into operation on April 18.—Reuter.

Mistrial, Demands Counsel

(Continued from Page 1)

Then George Crockett, for the defence, moved that a mistrial be declared because of Mr Medina's facial expressions and tone of voice. Mr Medina denied that motion also and remarked: "I want you gentlemen to understand that when I scratch my head, I'm just plain scratching my head. I'm not going to stop just because you make these remarks."—United Press.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



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"Say, you're talking pretty tough about the Russians—but I suppose there are a lot of big, hard-boiled fellows like you itching to carry a gun!"

Kravchenko Libel Suit Judgment Expected Soon

Paris, Mar. 22.—A "famous American citizen" had to send his son to a Soviet university because none was available in the United States, Counsel for the Communist weekly, Les Lettres Francaises said here today in his closing plea in the libel suit brought against the journal by the Russian-born author, Mr Victor Kravchenko.

The Counsel, Maitre Nordmann, was referring to the negro singer, Paul Robeson, now on a concert tour of Britain.

The trial, notable for the violent clashes between Mr Kravchenko and defence witnesses, some brought here from the Soviet Union, is in its ninth week and is expected to end tonight.

Maitre Nordmann told the court that anti-Soviet writers, like Mr Kravchenko, often finished up in the Fascist camp. One of the first translations of Mr Kravchenko's best-selling autobiography, "I chose Freedom," in which he described his experiences as a Soviet official, was published in Spain, the defence Counsel said.

He said he wanted to point out the kind of "freedom" Mr Kravchenko had chosen—a kind that gave no freedom of education for a Negro singer's son.

Maitre Nordmann quoted a warning which he said had been given by the German-born author, Thomas Mann, now an American citizen, against "spiritual intolerance" and attacks on democratic liberties in the United States, which Mr Mann was alleged to have said reminded him of the period in Germany just before Hitler came to power.

The Counsel said Mr Kravchenko's book had been distributed free in many countries: Members of Parliament received copies and some French manufacturers obtained an abridged edition for their employees.

Turning to the defence allegations that Mr Kravchenko was a United States secret service agent, Maitre Nordmann said the plaintiff had enjoyed special protection from the United States Government while travelling with false papers.

Mr Kravchenko, who had not attended the trial last week or yesterday, was besieged by autograph hunters, mostly fashionably dressed women, during the afternoon session. They offered copies of "I Chose Freedom" or court passes for his signature.

Judgment will probably be given in a week or a fortnight.—Reuter.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T.

6, Programme Summary; 6.01, Ivor Novello and His Music with Sylvia Cecil, Olive Gilbert, Maidee Andrews, John Stevens and BBC Revue Chorus and Orch. (BBCTS); 6.30, Sharp's Honolulu Hawaiians; 6.40, Pete Valderrama at the Piano (Studio); 7, World News and News Analysis (London Relay); 7.15, New Variety with Billy Butterfield and His Orchestra; 7.30, London Studio Melodies, A Programme of Continuous Music by the Melachrino Strings with the Michael Krein Saxophone Quartet (BBCTS); 8, "From the Editorials" (London Relay); 8.10, "It's in the Air" Variety Request Programme presented by Susan Howard (Studio); 9.15, Orchestral Concert given by the Royal Marines Bands of HMS "Belfast" and HMS "London" conducted by Warrant Officer Bandmaster A. Stagg, LRAM—By kind permission of Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Brind, KCB, CBE (Relay from the China Fleet Club); 10, Radio Newsreel (London Relay); 10.15, Weather Report; 10.16, "Anthology" presented by Clifford Davies (Studio); 10.45, "Songs of the River"; 11, Dance to Geraldo and His Orchestra; 11.15, Weather Report and Close Down.

US Leading Maritime Nation

London, Mar. 22.—The United States, with 33.5 percent of the world's steam and motorship tonnage, maintains her newly-won place as the world's leading maritime nation.

This is shown by figures published today in the appendix to Lloyd's Register for 1948-49.

Her rise to the top has been meteoric. In 1901 her percentage was 4.2 and as late as 1939 it was only 13 percent.

Britain is the next most powerful sea nation today, with 22.4 percent of the total tonnage.

Following her are Norway (5.3 percent), France (3.5 percent) and Holland (3.4 percent).

The figures show that, compared with 1939, there has been a net increase in total tonnage for the world by 11,634,529 tons. Countries showing notable increases since before the war are:

United States, Panama, Russia, Canada, China Sweden, Argentina, Spain and Honduras.—Reuter.

OUTWARD MAILS

Commencing from Monday, March 21, the outward air mail to United Kingdom will be closed on Mondays and Thursdays at CPO Kowloon 4.30 p.m. and GPO Hongkong 5 p.m. (Registered mail half an hour earlier).

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcel posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If mails close before 10 a.m., registered and parcel posts close at 5 p.m. on the previous day. Mails are closed at Kowloon Central Post Office half an hour earlier than the GPO closing times.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23
Closing Times By Air

Shanghai, Nanking, Tsingtao, Swatow, Amoy, Tainan and Foochow, 3.30 p.m.

Closing Times By Sea

USA, Canada, Central and South America via San Francisco (No Parcels for Canada), 3 p.m.
Manila, Macassar, Mauritius and South Africa via Durban, 3 p.m.
Straits, Rangoon and Calcutta, 3 p.m.
Haiphong, 3 p.m.
Swatow, 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24
Closing Times By Air

Swatow and Amoy, 8.30 a.m. (reg); 9 a.m. (ord).
Shanghai, 9 a.m. (reg); 9.30 a.m. (ord).
Kunming, Liuchow, Amoy, Nanking, Tsingtao, Kweilin, Swatow and Tainan, 3.30 p.m.
Rangoon, Calcutta, Karachi, Bahrein, Alexandria (Nairobi, Johannesburg and Marseilles via Alexandria) Rome and London, (CPO) 4.30 p.m.; (GPO) 5 p.m.
Bangkok, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Auckland, 5 p.m.
Shanghai and Japan, 5 p.m.
Singapore, 5 p.m.
Closing Times By Sea
Bangkok, 10 a.m.
Formosa via Keelung, 2 p.m.
Tsamkong via Canton, 5 p.m.

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COLONY BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

By "SIDELINER"

JUNIOR QUARTER-FINALS AGAIN PRODUCE KEEN GAMES

The three remaining quarter-final matches (two Junior Mixed Doubles and one Ladies' Doubles) played at the Kowloon Cricket Club last night were full of thrills and each match was featured by the splendid recovery of the winning pair after conceding the first game.

Last night's games say a great deal for the keenness and fighting spirit shown by the Colony's younger players and augur well for the future of badminton in Hongkong.

Each match was bitterly contested and the losers never gave up trying and made attempts to play every shot right up to the very end.

The opening match—J. A. Soares & Mrs Melvy Soares (the 'family' combination) versus K. S. Thong & Mrs L. Benjamin was played at a fast pace with both ladies excelling at the net. Exchanges between them were very even with, perhaps Mrs Benjamin a little faster in her coverage of the forecourt and more deadly with her 'kills'. Mrs Soares had perfect understanding with her partner and seldom allowed herself to be caught out of position.

Thong proved himself a brilliant player but again his lack of stamina let him down terribly in the deciding set.

The first game saw Soares attacking with his tremendous smashes which found the sidelines but the opposition gave as much as they received and the score went to 8-8 in Soares' favour.

Then Mrs Benjamin touched superb form at the net and nothing could pass her. Backed by her partner she made five successive 'kills' at the net before Soares could recover the service to draw level at 11-11.

However, Mrs Benjamin again played brilliantly at the net, placing the shuttle at such an angle that Soares was forced to lob to mid-court where Thong used his powerful smash to score the required four points for the first set.

The change-over found Soares resuming his smashing attack and, with Mrs Soares capably taking care of the forecourt, he remained in the back from where his smashes found the corners of the opposite court. They ran up a lead of 10-3 and then 13-6.

Thong unleashed everything he had and coupled with several fine interceptions at the net by Mrs Benjamin brought the score to 13-11. At this point Soares recovered the shuttle and with two smashes which found the baseline evened the sets at one-all.

After the breather, the untiring Soares continued his smashing while Thong mistimed many strokes. Thong and Mrs Benjamin obtained one point at 3-1 before Mrs Soares showed her hand and together with her partner placed the shuttle at will to force Thong into committing many costly errors, finally winning game and match without any further loss of points.

SECOND MATCH

The second Junior Mixed Doubles—A. J. Gonsalves & Miss Gloria Silva against H. J. Xavier & Miss Theresa Baptista found the former pair starting indifferently and failing to understand each other's play to trail 2-9 and then 5-11.

Through several mishits by Xavier and Miss Baptista the score went to 10-11 when Miss Baptista regained her form and won the required four points for the game by smashes and cross-court drops.

The beginning of the second game found Gonsalves still off his game but, when leading 7-1, Xavier began to smash too strongly.

With Miss Silva playing a clever positional game at the net, they drew level and led 9-7.

The score was again levelled at 9-9 before Gonsalves found his touch and aided by Miss Silva, whose drops forced Xavier to send up lobs, smashed his way through the second game 15-11.

Miss Silva began the third set brilliantly by winning five points with cross-court drives and drops. Miss Baptista was also to the fore at this period but Xavier found the covering of the entire back court too much for him and was continually hitting out.

Gradually the game went against Xavier and Miss Baptista although they did their best to stem the tide. Luck was against them when several difficult returns by Gonsalves fell just within the court.

With the score at 9-3, Gonsalves and Miss Silva indulged in a smashing spree and by the time it was over they had won the game and match at 15-3.

LADIES' DOUBLES

The Doubles match between Miss Helen Kwong & Miss H. P. Lam against Miss Inez Soares & Miss Yolly Franco was a game in which all the players were merely intent in returning the shuttle across the net without any thought for placement.

This was especially so in the first game which went to Miss Kwong & Miss Lam 15-13. Miss Soares was continually hitting the shuttle into the net but, when trailing 4-13, pulled herself together and with Miss Franco doing most of the running managed to bring the score to 13-14 before losing the set.

The second set found Miss Soares more settled and Miss Franco was bringing her command of strokes into play. Her smashes and drops caught the Chinese pair flat-footed and they won the second game easily at 15-8.

The third game looked like a clear cut victory for Miss Kwong & Miss Lam when they ran into a lead of 10-4.

They were playing their shots at Miss Soares who was erratic at times and Miss Franco was doing her best to cover for her partner.

Gradually Miss Soares & Miss Franco closed, the gap between the scores and at last drew level at 11-11 and then by dint of fine retrieving by Miss Franco, who was all over the court, they won the set and match at 15-12.

Lingnan v. Recreio

A friendly Badminton Match between a visiting Lingnan University team, who will arrive during the weekend, and the Club de Recreio will be played at the Club de Recreio at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 26.

The following players will represent Club de Recreio:

H. F. Gonsalves; A. M. Silva, J. J. Remedios, Dr A. M. Rodrigues, T. E. Rodrigues, F. M. Ribeiro and M. A. Oliveira (non-playing captain).

COLONY TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP:

YOUNGER TSUI TAKES 14 GAMES OFF IP KOON-HUNG

By "RECORDER"

Tsui Yun-pui put up one of his finest displays of tennis yesterday afternoon in the first semi-final of the Colony Open Grasscourt Singles Championship but his inability to command the pace and tactics of doubtful merit cost him the match at 3-6, 6-8, 5-7.

At times it seemed that Tsui was more capable of the brilliant kill and the spectacular return and in his brightest moments he earned more applause from the gallery.

All who saw the match were impressed with the fact that they were being treated to a high standard of tennis. For sheer steadiness, both Ip and Tsui were, I was told by good authority, up to the standard of a big international tournament.

"How far would they get in an international tournament?" came my inquiry. The reply was "Hardly beyond the first round" and the explanation "There is no power in their strokes."

The fact is that Ip Koon-hung against Bill Sidwell, the Australian, in a tournament in the United States lost 6-0, 6-0, 6-1. Sidwell is, of course, a top-rater.

IP CONTROLS THE PACE

A feature of yesterday's match was the fact that Ip seized control of the pace and Tsui, though he was seen at his best in the long rallies, had little chance to push him back on the defensive.

During the few short patches of the match in which Tsui took the offensive, he relied too much on trying to draw Ip up to the net and outdrive him.

Ip's agility at the net killed off these attempts. His drives had more pace to them, his volleying was more accurate and his judgment of the occasion that called for a dropshot made him that much superior to his opponent.

Tsui Yun-pui was very near his best except for some unsteady patches at different stages of the game. At the net he was inclined to rely also on a cut drop that only came off about once every two attempts and his overhead smashing, when he had the opportunity, was timed more for accuracy than force, giving Ip an easy return.

Tsui led at one stage in the second set and at one stage again in the third. His confidence when trailing his opponent showed up a diehard spirit that faded strangely in the instances when he held the lead.

The fight that Tsui put on when trailing 3-5 in the second set, striking one of his brightest patches ever, excited the gallery. He survived two set points and carried the set to 14 games, but Ip's all-round superiority, steadiness and confidence told as it did again in the third set when Tsui held him to 12 games.

Weather permitting, Roch Leung meets Tsui Wai-pui, the reigning Colony Champion, in the other semi-final at the HKCC this afternoon at 4.30 p.m.

London Fights

London, Mar 22.—Theo Medina, French bantamweight champion, was beaten on points here tonight over eight rounds by Ray Fitton, of Manchester.

Fitton, who was deputising for the London boxer, Danny O'Sullivan, deserved his victory, boxing cleverly against the experienced French champion.

Making his first London appearance, Fitton used a long left lead to the fullest advantage.

Medina attacked with tigerish rushes, but the Manchester boxer shortened his punches cleverly in countering.

The Frenchman, though he fought gamely, was only a shadow of the man who beat Jackie Paterson two years ago.

Fitton, a "poker faced" boxer, was not at all frightened by the reputation of the former European champion and punched away coolly to gain a good win on points.

ERIC BOON DISQUALIFIED

Fernando Jannilli, the Italian welterweight champion, beat Eric Boon, former lightweight champion of Britain, Boon being disqualified in the seventh round of a ten rounds' contest for allegedly not giving of his best.

Boon looked extremely fit and gave the impression that he could knock the Italian out when he liked.

Jannilli, although he backed away for the greater part of the time, did at least connect with some left leads, and he kept scoring when Boon failed to take advantage of the many opportunities which presented themselves.

During the fourth round the referee urged both boxers to "make a fight of it." He repeated his warning three times before disqualifying Boon.

The contest was fought to the accompaniment of catcalls, slow clapping, booing and the intermittent blowing of whistles by the audience.

Lucien Krawczyk, of France, boxed a draw with Joe Hyman, of British Guiana, over an eight-round middleweight contest.—Reuter.

KID PEDRUCO CHALLENGES

The "Telegraph" has received the following communication from Kid Pedruco:

The Sports Editor,

Sir,—"Kayo Curly" writing about Ramsey Bucks, the Shanghai Star, under "Golden Gloves" yesterday mentioned Bucks' String of Victories and a great triumph "when he annexed the featherweight title in 1941.

"Bucks was in Macau during the Japanese invasion and was pitted against the flashy Kid Pedruco in 10-round bout which he won on points after a thrilling slugfest."

I have no comment to make regarding all the glowing accounts of Bucks' victories but his Macau fight with me ended in a draw. He did not win on points as Curly erroneously claims.

In the interests of sport and the old adage that the "proof of the pudding is in the eating," I am prepared to meet Bucks anywhere given a month's notice ahead.

Thanking you,

Yours,

KID PEDRUCO

Exhibitions Earn Louis $590,000

Chicago, Mar. 22.—Retired heavyweight champion Joe Louis tonight winds up a five-month exhibition tour which netted him $210,000. The gross take was $590,000 for 41 bouts.

Joe closes his profitable tour (apparently not his last) against Hubert Hood in a four-rounder at St. Paul, Minnesota. Louis did his exhibitions before approximately 250,000 persons.

Tomorrow, Louis will start bearing down in his new role as Director of the International Boxing Club.

He is to confer at the Chicago Stadium with IBC colleagues, Arthur Wirtz and Jim Morris, who control both the stadium and Detroit's Olympia Stadium.

The subject will be where and when to stage their proposed bout between Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott for Joe's vacated crown.

That is not the only iron that promoter Louis has in the fire. He plans a Chicago Stadium bout the week of April 17. And he may bring Sandy Saddler, recently dethroned welter king, into Detroit the week of April 24.

Louis hemmed and hawed when asked if he was hanging up his gloves after this tour.

"I am through for the spring and summer," said the retired champion, who will be 35 on May 13. "But they want me in Italy next fall. I may have three exhibition bouts there in October or November at Rome, Naples and Florence."—Associated Press.

CHAMPION WRESTLER



Michael "Curly" Connors, Junior Heavyweight Wrestling Champion of the Orient, who is visiting Hongkong. He hopes to return here in about four months' time with a team of wrestlers from Singapore to stage a series of exhibitions.

COUNTY CRICKET PROSPECTS

A BLOW TO ESSEX CRICKET HOPES

By PETER DITTON

For years England has been looking for a really top class fast bowler. Since the days of Alf Gover and the late Kenneth Farnes, there has been no-one in English cricket who could be so described, although erroneously. Alec Bedser and Cliff Gladwin—fast medium bowlers—are often placed in this category.

The visit of the Australians last year, with their fast attack of Lindwall, Miller and Johnston, showed just what true pace-men can do. It is small wonder therefore that when at last England appeared to have found the man who might worthily fill the shoes of such famous players as Larwood, Voce, Gover and Farnes, he was carefully nursed along.

That young player was Kenneth Preston who was discovered by Essex. They had him coached by Gover, the former Surrey and England player, who is now running a cricket school in South London and under his skilful tuition, Preston advanced rapidly. But while his great ambition was to win an Essex County "Cap," he was also interested in football. He played centre-forward for his local club and every Saturday afternoon he used to be among the goals.

As the present cricket season grew nearer, Gover suggested to Preston that he should give up football and concentrate on cricket.

"You never know lad," Gover said, "You might get injured and then you will not be able to play cricket."

"All right," replied Preston, "I will give up football after just one more game."

"JUST ONE MORE"

Preston had "just one more game" and broke his leg. That was on January 22. His leg is still in plaster and Mr R. F. T. Paterson, the Essex County Cricket Club Secretary, told me it will be late July at the earliest before Preston can bowl fast again, although that is not to say he will not be able to play cricket before that time. However by late July, more than half the season will have gone and Preston's chance of playing in a Test will be negligible—a tragedy for England and Essex.

In spite of this loss, Essex are determined to play bright, entertaining cricket. They will play first class matches on eight different grounds in the country in addition to playing one and two-day matches on several other grounds.

Peter Smith; the only England player to take nine wickets in an innings in Australia may again be available, but he has recently undergone an operation and will not make up his mind definitely for another month or so. His heart is still in the game but he does not want to risk injuring his health.

His cousin, Ray Smith, will of course be available and will probably open the attack with Trevor Bailey the former Cambridge player who is now Assistant Secretary of the Club.

And for the first few weeks of the season at least Essex will be able to call upon William Pullinger, a young fast bowler from Grays, who gained his 'Cap' with the second eleven last year. Tom Pearce the famous International Rugby referee will again explain the side and D. Insole the Cambridge Captain, will probably play for the county after the Varsity game at Lords in June.

Last season Essex were definitely not a strong bowling side. Their batting was fairly reliable but they could not get their opponents' wickets cheaply enough. Preston might have made all the difference to them this year, but with his injury Essex hopes must drop and the county will do well to finish in the top half of the table.

Championship For Yorkshire?

Yorkshire have won the County Championship on 22 occasions—more times than any other county—and this year they have a grand opportunity to make the total 23. In addition to England players Yardley, Hutton, Coxon and Smithson, Yorkshire will be able to call upon eight professionals who have gained county 'Caps,' and one other amateur who has been similarly honoured.

But Yorkshire may find that their strength is also their weakness. They have at least five players who will almost certainly come up for consideration when the England team is chosen to meet New Zealand.

If any or all of those players should be awarded England 'Caps,' it will obviously weaken the County side and valuable points may be dropped. Last year, Test claims weakened Middlesex hopes of retaining the Championship and a similar thing could happen to the 'Tykes.'

Boat Crews Warm Up

London, Mar. 22.—The Oxford University Boat Race crew gave a fine performance today in their first serious outing since a full course trial last Friday.

Over a stretch of nearly a mile they got away to a good start and covered the stretch in excellent time, although the water was slack and offered little help.

Paced by an Isis crew, they reached 38 in the first minute and in a final burst they stroked 37.

Cambridge did the first serious stake boat start of their practice, making four attempts. In one start they got in seventeen and a half strokes in half a minute, but their performance had not the brilliance of Oxford's stake boat start.—Reuter.

ON THE RECORD

How To "Jinx" A Nightmare

Sportsmen don't always sleep quietly, however correct it may be that good, healthy living chases away all dreams. It may be that when ambition mocks, sleep does not come. The season-long unsuccessful bowler who suddenly takes six wickets in a match may be the happiest typo possible round about seven o'clock and the ensuing celebration may see him the same night dreaming that he is bowling to Bradman.

The Don takes a swipe at the ball, misses, and the balls are just about to fly when Arthur Morris steps out and snicks the ball to leg. Then odd things begin to happen. A butcher-like individual with a bat as big as a spade proceeds to hit every ball of the best length imaginable with that appropriate break in the right direction.

• • •

Chess players, who must remain in good health to stand the strain of match play, constantly see themselves checkmated in their dreams.

The schoolboy who dreams of achievements to come sees himself clear the bar in the high jump as the announcer yells out "7 feet 3 inches, a new record."

Or he sees himself in midair holding on precariously to the top of a long pole with a crossbar just beneath him and his coach calling out, "Let go, Jimmy! you have a world record."

• • •

But one of the best known dreams in the annals of Australian sport is that of the heavyweight wrestler, Michael "Curly" Connors, now visiting us, who every 18 months or so enters the Land of Nod to wrestle with a curious beast that he can best describe as "half lion and half unicorn."

In this dream, things always develop against "Curly" until he gets on top of the beast, grabs its horn and applies a neck-bend. Then the animal's neck snaps.

• • •

But this is where trouble always begins for Curly. What appears at first to be a dark cloud and then assumes the shape of a flock of birds passes overhead.

Just before the shadow they cast on the ground vanishes, hundreds of thousands of birds rain down on the battle. They obscure Curly's vision. He falls. Then the beast is on top and, despite the fact that its neck is broken, it has him spread out on the mat and begins licking its chops for the final massacre.

• • •

Curly is fond of seafood and has hazy memories occasionally of a lobster supper that came before the dream. But lobsters can't explain the repetition of the dream or the fact that every time Curly wrestles with that ugly beast in his dreams it is a portent of impending disaster.

The first time "Curly" had the dream he was the star of a strong man vaudeville act billed as "The Sword of Damocles." The act consisted of an assistant climbing a 14-foot ladder and, as the kettle drums rattle, dropping it point first at Curly's stomach. As the sword lands point first, Curly flexes his stomach muscles and it bounces off into the orchestra pit.

The evening after Curly first wrestled with the unicorn in his dreams something went wrong, the sword point missed his flexed stomach muscles, penetrated the fleshy part of his side and pinned him to the floor. He still carries the scar to this day.

• • •

On subsequent occasions whenever he had the same dream, it brought him disaster in one shape or another. Once the dream was followed by his breaking his ankle in a warm-up just before a very important bout, another time he tore a shoulder muscle, and the fourth time he had the dream he suffered concussion after a flying tackle which ended against a ring post.

He had almost forgotten all about the dream when it came again. He waited grimly for something to happen. It did. He busted a knee cartilage. This required an operation and he was out of wrestling for a year.

• • •

This made him so mad that, while recuperating from the operation, he decided to bring that dream back no matter how many lobsters it took, break the unicorn's neck and that of every bird into the bargain.

A determined dreamer can move mountains. Curly did. He had that dream again, broke the beast's neck once and for all and got ready to start on the birds. The birds flew away in a tremendous hurry and he woke up. The dream may yet come back and Curly is all set to start on those birds.

—"RECORDER".

INTER-VARSITY GOLF

Oxford & Cambridge Share Foursomes

Hoylake, Cheshire, Mar. 22.—Oxford and Cambridge shared the honours in the foursomes in the Diamond Jubilee Inter-Varsity golf match on the Royal Liverpool Club's course here today, each side winning two matches, with one halved.

Tomorrow, ten singles over 36 holes will be played.

Oxford with six Old Blues in their team are fancied to win for the third year in succession.

A brilliant recovery by the Cambridge tail pair, Ian Stackhouse and Roger Inglis, who were cheered to a one-hole victory on the 36th green over J. Whitlach and A. MacDonald, allowed Cambridge to draw level. A magnificent mashie pitch from the rough to the centre of the last green by Stackhouse was the climax of a thrilling finish.

Today's results were: J. Kitchin and F. Tatum (Oxford) beat P. Key and J. Coulter three and two.

O. Lough and D. Houlding (Oxford) lost to R. Black and P. Bayne three and two.

P. Gardiner-Hill and J. Bardsley (Oxford) beat P. Jones and J. Bland four and three.

E. Hurst and T. Harker (Oxford) halved with R. Ames and A. Weir.

J. Whitlack and A. MacDonald (Oxford) lost to I. Stackhouse and J. Ingliss by one hole.—Reuter.

CRICKET TEAMS

KCC 1ST XI

The KCC seniors entertain the Army in a First Division League match on Saturday. The team will be:

R. E. Lee (capt), N. Hart Baker, A. Zimmern, J. Barrow, G. E. Taylor, W. M. Davidson, Capt. W D. M. Webb, T. A. Madar, J. P. Hewitt, V. C. Bond and E. Randall.

The KCC play their final Second Division League cricket match of the season on Saturday, meeting the Army at Sookunpoo.

The KCC team will be S. A. Gray (capt), E. A. J. Hancock, S. C. Trueman, F. E. Lawrence, H. Matthews, D. G. White, R. Leigh, G. R. Rosselet, E. Guest, A. J. Wood and J. Tibble.

Players are requested to meet at the Star Ferry, Hongkong side, at 1.30 p.m.

HONG CRICKET

The following will represent Dodwell & Co., Ltd., in a game to be played against the HK and Shanghai Bank at Chater Road on Sunday, commencing at 11 a.m.—E. R. Hill (Capt), N. E. Arthy, E. A. Champ, K. A. G. Cook, P. Deveson, R. W. Franklin, J. D. S. Mackey, A. P. Pereira, N. Tindall, C. Ure, M. R. Wheeler. Umpire, J. S. Howell; Scorer, G. S. Dovey.

Withdrawal From Grand National

London, Mar. 22.—Rowland Roy, 40-1 outsider, will not run in the Grand National steeplechase on Saturday.

Trainer Fulke Walwyn reported the horse pulled up sore after his final gallop today. His departure trims the field of probable starters to 47 for the 4½-mile Aintree Classic.

Once the favourite in pre-race betting, Rowland Roy faded in backers' opinion this month. He was sixth in the 1948 National won by Sheila's Cottage.—Associated Press.

College Basketball Championship

New York, Mar. 22.—Kentucky's defending champions joined Illinois in the finals of the Eastern eliminations of the National Collegiate basketball tournament last night.

Kentucky defeated Villanova, 85-72, in the semi-finals and Illinois turned back Yale University, 71-67.

Favoured Kentucky and Illinois, Western Conference champions, meet in Madison Square garden tonight for the Eastern crown.

The winner meets Oklahoma Aggies, Western NCAA titlist in Seattle, Washington, next Saturday for the national championship.—Associated Press.

Inter-Service Rugger

London, Mar. 22.—The Army and Royal Air Force will meet at Twickenham next Saturday in the final match of the Inter-Services Rugby Union tournament and the result will decide the destination of honours for the season.

The airmen are including a new stand-off half in 22-year-old Corporal G. R. Tucker, who formerly played for Welsh Public Schoolboys.—Reuter.

Mister Conquest



• FOR YOUR SPARE MOMENTS •

• McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

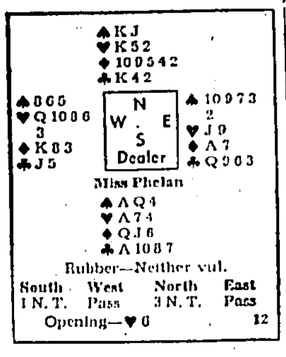
Losing First Trick Is The Difference

BY WILLIAM E. McKENNEY

I HAD the pleasure of meeting the charming Margaret Phelan of New York City, who recently was singing in the Wedgewood Room at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel with Eddie Duchin's orchestra. Margaret has gained popularity with her rare ability to combine operatic and popular music, and on top of it, to sing a few comedy songs.

Old-time baseball fans will remember Art Phelan, who back around 1912 played with the Chicago Cubs and Cincinnati Reds. Art is Margaret's father and at the present time he owns the Alexandria, La., team.

All of her family love to play cards, but they glare at her because she refuses to take it seriously. Her partner glared when she did not win the first



Miss Phelan
♠ A Q 4
♥ A 7 4
♦ Q J 6
♣ A 10 8 7

Rubber—Neither vul.

South	West	North	East
1 N.T.	Pass	3 N.T.	Pass

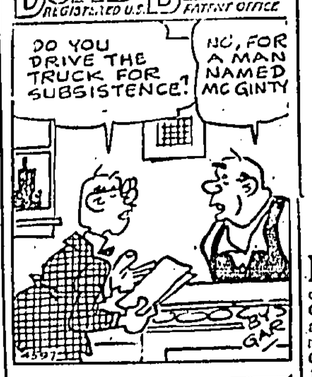
Opening—♥ 6 12

trick in today's hand; however, that was the only way that the contract could be made.

If she had won the first trick and returned the queen of diamonds, East could have won and returned a heart. Now, even if Margaret held up one round before winning the heart, West would get in with the king of diamonds and run the heart suit.

When East held the first trick with the nine of hearts and returned the Jack, Margaret won that trick with the ace and led the queen of diamonds. East won but he had no more hearts to return. All he could do was to lead a spade or a club. Margaret could win either and lead another diamond. West won the second diamond with the king and led another heart, but declarer won this in dummy with the king and proceeded to make four no trump.

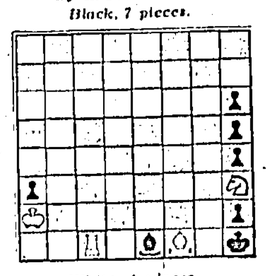
DUMB-BELLS



CHESS PROBLEM

By E. PALKOSKA

Black, 7 pieces.



White, 4 pieces.

White to play and mate in three.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

1, Kt—Kt2, any; 2, Q, R, (ch, or dbl ch), or Kt (ch, or dbl ch) mates.

MIDWEEK BOOK PARADE

ENGLISHWOMAN'S LIFE UNDER THE NAZIS

THE ALIEN YEARS
By Sarah Mabel Collins
(Hodder & Stoughton, 10/6)

NO better picture has been produced of the hardships of daily life in wartime Nazi Germany than this lively autobiography of Mrs Collins, an Englishwoman who sailed to Germany in the Europa in July 1938 to marry an Austrian physicist, and remained in Berlin and Vienna until she returned to England in 1946.

Mrs Collins described Germany in those years as a nation of apathy, except for the ardent members of the SS and the SA and other Nazi organisations whose job was to prod the dull and uninspired civilians and soldiers into greater efforts in working and fighting for the victory that Hitler promised them.

Occasionally Germans who knew she was English confided to her their loathing of the Nazis, explaining that for the sake of their jobs and their families they had to be members of the Nazi party. One of these was a police official to whom Mrs Collins had to surrender her British passport: "I, and many more like me, can work from morning to night for a mere pittance, be harassed by the Party when we get home, so that we have no peace anywhere, and life is not worth living! I looked at his party badge, and he said, 'Oh yes, I am a member of the Party, otherwise I should be thrown out of here. I have three growing children to keep so *Etwas ist besser als gar nichts.* (Anything is better than nothing)."

Goering's promise that no enemy plane should ever reach Berlin was soon proved to be groundless, and Mrs Collins experienced the drenching RAF raids that neutralised the German capital.

Phase by phase, this book described the familiar course of the war, as seen by this brave Englishwoman stranded in an enemy country. She listened carefully to news from the BBC, risking her life, and news of other cities' bombing attacks reached her by rumour. Then the attack of the Soviet Union was halted, and gradually, as news of German reverses on all fronts came more frequently, and as conditions and morale on the home front worsened, it became obvious to Germans everywhere that the war was not proceeding according to the Fuehrer's plan.

Life Impossible

Mrs Collins moved to Vienna, to live with her husband's family, when the air raids on Berlin made life there impossible, and she was there when the invasion of Normandy came in 1944. Impatiently she waited and listened to the radio from Britain, praying that British and Americans would arrive before the Red Army. But soon the air raids on Vienna began, and women with young children were advised to leave the city.

She moved with Tommy, her seven-month-old son, to Eberhardtsreuth, and it was there in the early months of 1945 that: "Suddenly a roaring sound was heard and several of us went out to see what it was: a column of tanks of an infantry battalion, bristling with guns and painted with large white stars, ground its way down the village street. When I saw the star I almost fainted, thinking they were Russian tanks, until they came nearer and I read, "Sweetheart" and other such names which were painted in white across the front". The Americans had come! The war, for Mrs Collins and her young son, was over!

BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

A DOCTOR has pointed out that if the pupils of your eyes are more than 70 millimetres apart, you are not entitled to free spectacles under the National Health Service Act.

To acquire a free wig, I believe, you have to get a chartered accountant to audit the hairs of your head. If there are more than 7,394, you get no wig.

(*TOMORROW: "Is There A Black Market In False Ears?" by "Sociologicus."*)

Narkover awaits new boy

NARKOVER reassembles in a couple of days for the new term. Not for a long time has a new boy caused so much speculation as Mountfalcon Foulenough. A history master said: "If his uncle has taught him all he knows, there won't be much left for us to teach him." A reporter asked whether the master was referring to scholastic attainments, and received the reply. "No. I was thinking of a general knowledge of life and its conduct."

Mimsie Slopcorner

MIMSIE SLOPCORNER, according to Alderman Futtleborough, is not a Beauty Queen. "Glamour Queen describes her better," said the Alderman. It was personality, rather than looks, which got her chosen as the Glamour Queen of Textile Products last July. Mrs Slopcorner said: "What I always say is that I do so think that glamour is important in the matter of exports targets, and gap-closing." Mimsie's next job will be to ride a milk-white steed decorated with telephone apparatus, in order to popularise the telephone.

Atomic wrist-watches

I DON'T foresee much of a future among ordinary people for the new atomic clock. The inventors claim that it is so accurate that "you can check the rotation of the earth by it." But if the principle were applied to wrist-watches, and a gadget were added, telling you the time in Macao, Hammerfest, Cawnpore, and Peebles, the watches would probably be snapped up by the million. Especially if they contained a tiny radio.

Travel broadens the mind

ONCE again I read of a plan to encourage people to get to know foreign countries. At present this means getting to know foreign Customs officials. You take a through train to a place where there is an hotel full of English people. Then you come back.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

The Toys Went for a Walk

—And They Never Left the Playroom at All—

By MAX TRELL

THE children had gone to bed. The house was dark. But in the playroom, the moon shone through the window and everyone was wide awake.

Mrs Cuckoo was at the door of her cottage-in-the-clock, calling out the hours. Teddy the Stuffed Bear was sitting on the floor next to Mary Jane the Rag Doll; General Tin the Tin Soldier was standing near the book case with a musket over his shoulder. Miss China Doll was sitting on the steps of her private Doll House. Mr Punch and his wife Judy were sitting inside their little theatre.

Then Knarf and Hanid, the shadow-children with the turned-about names, came in. "Let's all take a walk," said Knarf.

Everyone answered at once that this would be fine. "Only," said Teddy the Stuffed Bear, "where can we walk to? We can't get out of the house because all the doors are locked."

Through the Keyhole

"We can't squeeze through the keyhole, because we're all too big," said Mary-Jane.

"We can't go out through the window because that's not the way to leave a house," said General Tin.

"The only place we can walk," said Mr Punch, "is in this playroom."

"And I don't think that would be much fun," said Judy.

But Knarf and Hanid said it would be as much fun walking in the playroom as walking down the road.

No one in the room believed them so Knarf said: "Just let's start walking and I'll show you all the wonderful things that we can see."

Still no one believed that there was anything wonderful to be seen in the playroom. Nevertheless, they all got up and started walking behind Knarf and Hanid.

"Now here," said Knarf, pointing to the wallpaper, "is a beautiful garden. Just look at all the roses and daisies and buttercups."

"And there are even houses and cows and dogs," added Hanid.

"H'mm," said all the others.

"And here," said Knarf, stopping before the couch, "is an enormous blue mountain. It's higher than any of us can climb."

Wonderful View

"But if only we could get to the top," Hanid went on, "what a view we would have! We could see all over—we could see the roof of Miss China Doll's house, all the way across to the top of that great tree with the light in it."

"Hanid means the lamp," Knarf whispered to Teddy, the Stuffed Bear.

"And just look!" cried Hanid, as she moved a few steps further and pointed to the mirror hanging on the door. "Just look at that beautiful lake!"

"The water is so clear," Knarf said, "that you can see everything in it."

By this time, the walk was over, every one had seen things in the playroom that they had never seen before. It's true they were the same things that they always thought they saw but somehow they all seemed different when they took this wonderful make-believe walk with Knarf and Hanid.



General Tin stood near the bookcase.

Rupert's Elfin Bell—42



After the two friends have finished gazing at the marvels of the castle Rupert sighs. "It's all quite wonderful," he says, "but we really must be getting home again soon." The elf says he will show them a short cut and is just putting them into a small room when a little worker appears dressed in overalls and carrying an oilcan. "I say," says the newcomer, "I need a bit of help on my job. Can you give me a hand? I won't keep you five minutes." Asking Rupert and Bill to wait there, their little guide goes with him.

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YOUR BIRTHDAY,... By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

BORN today, you have a scientific and analytical mind. Coupled with that, you have a very keen intuitive sense. If you follow the warnings of your "inner voices" you will rarely, if ever, err in judgment.

Research is probably your best field. You should be engaged in some kind of work where personal initiative is rewarded. You will be very unhappy if you have to deal with people who are outside your own sphere of thought. You will not want to bother with them. They, in turn, will not bother to be friendly toward you. Consequently, you will become lonely and withdrawn. As a result your capabilities will be retarded in their development.

You men are interested in competitive sports when young and probably have considerable physical strength. You of the fair sex are inclined to boyish sports, too, and may be known as "tomboys" in girlhood. However, as you grow older you will calm down a little. You will make excellent "pals," and in marriage will be fine companions to your children as they are growing up. You are able to hold the youthful point of view.

To find what the stars have in store for tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

ARIES (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)—Morning hours are the most progressive. Be moderate in your anticipations when afternoon comes.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)—A day of romance if you are seeking it. Spring is very definitely in the air for you just now.

GEMINI (May 22-June 22)—A journey may be a business advance. Love at first sight is not an impossibility, either.

CANCER (June 23-July 23) Get an early start today if you want to make important gains toward personal success.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)—Changes in your domestic conditions may bring happiness. Volume sales can bring profit, even at lower prices, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 22)—An emotional day. Follow your intuitions—even if they appear very odd, indeed,—for best results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)—The employee appears to be favoured right now. Attend to business correspondence if neglected.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)—The fair sex can be very helpful to your future. Get their co-operation for best results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—Morning hours are best. Make important moves then for the afternoon becomes unsettled.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—New activity—perhaps a trip—can bring increased advantages. Romance should not be neglected, either.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Personal matters appear to be better than business ones right now. Concentrate on them.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 21)—General progress if you put forth your best energies and depend upon your own initiative.

Check Your Knowledge

1. "The sport of kings" refers to what sport?

2. Who was Alexander the Great's tutor?

3. Name the German ship that was scuttled outside the harbour of Montevideo.

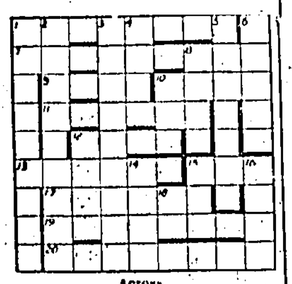
4. For what flower is Holland celebrated?

5. With what weapon was Abraham Lincoln assassinated?

6. How is carbolic acid obtained?

(Answers in Column 6)

CROSSWORD



Across

1 and 5. Short oval ramps for a sort of commissioned policeman. (7, 7). 7. Practice. (9)
9. This is a crack. (4)
10. Attract by change of rule. (4)
11. Funny that you should get this by twisting a halter. (6)
12. Dice for example. (4)
13. Burn. (6)
15. Orchestra short of a copper. (3)
17. Tore up in disguise. (6)
19. Copies. (8) 20. Hates. (8)

Down

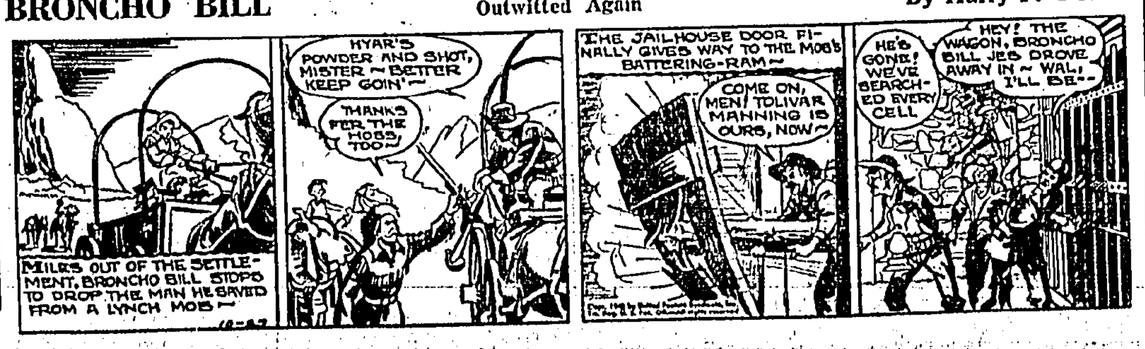
1. On the side of sight you may think. (9)
2. As the mirror has often done. (9)
3. Daring. (9)
4. This may be sacred or profane (4) 5. See 1 Across.
6. May work in an office or may be a clergyman. (8)
8. Certain. (4) 10. Shelter. (3)
12. It's a bulb. (4) 14. Select. (4)
15. You win if you do this on good thing. (3)
16. Headland. (4)
18. When he goes to a little street it's over. (2)

Solution of yesterday's puzzle.—Across: 1, Petulant; 9, Ilver; 10, Native; 12, Yen; 13, Iliac; 14, Entertain; 17 and 19, Round and round; 20, Hands; 21, Awe; 24, Dip; 25, Twenty; 26, Own; 27, Nurses; 28, Wed. Down: 1, Pyre; 2, Era; 3, Tent; 4, Unbending; 5, Laird; 6, Ate; 7, Tepid; 8, Brain; 11, Tran; 15, Noahi; 16, Tawny; 18, Under; 19, See; 19 Across; 20, Bats; 21, Ape; 22, Know; 23, Paw.

BRONCHO BILL

Outwitted Again

By Harry F. O'Neill



FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

More Fuel For "Bonfire" Of Controls

London, Mar. 22.—The President of the Board of Trade, Mr Harold Wilson, today added to the "bonfire" of industrial controls in Britain by announcing relaxations which will eliminate the need for 880,000 trade licences.

He told the House of Commons that the import of tanning materials, synthetic rubber, rosin, pine oil, turpentine, oak veneers and building boards would revert from public to private purchase.

The date of the relaxations would be announced later. The distribution of matches would be de-controlled in about four months' time, he said.

Mr Wilson told a questioner that he also hoped to make early progress in the de-control of wool yarn and wool cloth.—Reuter.

Effect Of UK Pacts On Canada

"Interfering With Trade"

Ottawa, Mar. 22.—The Canadian Finance Minister Mr Douglas Abbott, today told the nation in his budget speech that the bi-lateral trade pacts signed by Britain and other European countries would "inevitably diminish world trade."

Mr Abbott said: "Discriminatory deals between others are interfering with our trade.

"In face of the problem thus presented to Canada some people would urge the government to reverse its basic trade policy and embark upon barter deals, discrimination and balancing of trade agreements with individual countries."

"However, such a course would not serve Canada's best interests, he said.

Apart from Canada's basic objection on the grounds of principle, there were also serious practical objections.

"Since a great part of Canada's trade is with the United States, "he said, "we cannot deal that way there, and there is a real danger that we may prejudice this greater part in trying discrimination and barter in lesser.

"Secondly, we are not in a good bargaining position to make a success of bi-lateral deals, which by their very nature would force us into bi-lateral balancing with each individual country."

Mr Abbott was optimistic on Canada's future. He said all would be well with Canada during the next 12 months barring warm crop failure and widespread unemployment.—United Press.

UK Lumber Buying Criticised

Memphis (Tennessee), Mar. 22.—Resolutions condemning British lumber trading with Communist-dominated countries "at the expense of American business" were sent to Washington today.

The resolutions were released here by the National Lumber Exporters Association.

The lumber group charges that the British government has been buying hardwoods with American dollars supplied by the Marshall plan.

The group said that between 1935 and 1939 the American hardwood industry exported to Britain and Europe 250,000,000 feet of lumber but the exports have now declined to a trickle.—United Press.

China Produce Quotations

	Closing prices March 22
Aniseed oil, per lb. F.O.B. New York	US$0.10-.90
Cassia oil, per lb. F.O.B. New York	1.90-2.35
Agar agar, per lb. F.O.B. New York	2.75-3.25
Sandalwood, in drums, depending on quality & quality	13.00 nom.
Tung oil, in tank cars, F.O.B. New York, per lb.	0.20-½
Beryllium, (10 to 12 percent) per ton	26.00/30.00
Molybdenum, (90 percent) per lb.	0.84

—United Press.

Check Your Knowledge Answers

1. Horse racing. 2. Aristotle. 3. Admiral Graf Spee. 4. The tulip. 6. Pistol. 6. From the distillation of coal tar.

Anglo-Israeli Economic Talks

URGENT PROBLEMS TO BE DISCUSSED SOON

London, Mar. 22.—Formal talks to settle pressing financial and economic problems between Britain and Israel will begin in a week or two.

Informants representing both countries reported today that a series of preliminary exchanges between the British Treasury and Mr Joseph Linton, acting Israeli representative here, have now ended.

Britain, these sources said, has told the Israelis that the talks can begin as soon as the Tel-Aviv Government makes an "official request".

Only matters of urgent importance will be dealt with at these talks. Long-term subjects, such as the settlement of each country's claims and counter-claims, will have to await negotiation later in the year.

Issues which will be discussed in the first set of talks are:

1. Gradual liquidation of the sterling balance Israel accumulated in Britain during the war.

2. A short-term payments agreement governing the financing of trade between the two countries.

3. Fixing of exchange rates between British and Israeli currencies.

Israel is expected to ask Britain to release part of her estimated £8,000,000 credit in hard currency. The new state will possibly want to make big purchases of capital equipment and machinery in Britain with some of her credits too.

The question of Israel's entry into the British-controlled sterling area is unlikely to be tackled for some time.

The British say that although they would like Israel in, they want to be satisfied first that the Jews will conform with the overall sterling area policy of conserving hard currency, and that they will also provide the necessary safeguards for controlling currency exchange transactions.

Britain's Minister designate to Israel, Mr A.K. Helm, is expected to leave soon for Tel-Aviv but so far no date has been fixed for his departure.

He will probably go early next month.—Associated Press.

HONGKONG SHARES

The turnover on the Stock Exchange this morning was $102,035.00. Transactions and noon prices:

SHARES	BUYERS	SELLERS	SALES
BANKS			
HK Bank ...	1710	10 @	1720
INSURANCES			
Union		5 @	700
Underwriters	0½		
DOCKS ETC.			
Dock	25	600 @	25
		300 @	25
LAND, ETC.			
HK Hotel, XD	13.80	500 @	12.80
S'hai Land ..	2.70	3 1300 @	2¾
Humphreys .	12½	13	
UTILITIES			
Tram, XD ..	18.70	200 @	18.40
Star Ferry, XD	124		
C. Light (O)	14	500 @	14
C. Light (N)	10.10	1000 @	9.90
Electric, XD .	34½	120 @	34
		200 @	34½
Macao Electric ...	26	100 @	26½
Telephone ..		31 200 @	30
		300 @	30
INDUSTRIALS			
Cement, XD	35½		
STORES, ETC.			
Dairy	41		
Wa. on, XD	61		

World Trade Value Up

Washington, Mar. 22.—World trade set a new mark of US$51,000,000,000 in cash value during 1948, the United States Commerce Department estimates.

That was a six percent again over 1947, but it took higher prices to increase the total.

The quantity of goods exchanged among nations actually declined, while the cash value rose.

The drop in quantity amounted to about three to four percent below 1947, the Department said. The "world trade" figure was reached by adding up the estimated exports of all countries.—Associated Press.

Liverpool Docks Improvement

Liverpool, Mar. 22.—The Mersey Dock and Harbour Board has approved a £10,000,000 plan to dredge out new deep entrances to Langton, Brocklebank and Canada Docks.

When the work is completed ships as large as 25,000 tons will be able to dock even at low tide, thus saving hours of delay. Present entrances to the three docks are more than 100 years old.—Associated Press.

Rubber Study Group's Sixth Meeting Soon

London, Mar. 22.—The Rubber Study Group, a worldwide organisation of natural rubber producers, will begin its sixth meeting in London on Monday.

The British colonies, which produced more than half the world's rubber supply last year, will have a Malayan as an adviser for the first time. He is Tuan Sheikh Ahmad Bin Mustaphe, who was chosen as representative of the small plantations in Malaya.

He is due in London on Thursday with Lee Kong Chian of Singapore, and D. Farquharson, representing Chinese marketing interests in the Malay Peninsula.

World rubber production last year was estimated at 1,520,000 long tons, of which Malaya produced 698,200 tons. About 40 percent of Malaya's rubber comes from small-holders, the rest from large estates.

Malaya and Singapore together handled about 65 percent of the world's natural rubber last year.—Associated Press.

N.Y. FUTURES MARKET

New York, Mar. 22.—Number 1 contract rubber futures today closed 13 to 25 points lower on sales totalling 20 contracts.

Standard futures closed nominally 30 points higher.

The market opened heavy and remained under pressure, although overall activity slackened considerably on the recession. Dealer interests were identified on both sides of the market, with selling orders predominating in line with lower London and Singapore cables.

Brokers said that outside speculative interest had practically halted pending developments at the Rubber Study Group meeting at London on Monday.

Prices closed as follow:—

No. 1 Contract Rubber Futures.	
March (in cents per lb.)	19.25 nominal
April	19.22 "
May	19.20 bid"
June	19.12 nominal
July	19.05 traded
August	18.90 nominal
September	18.75 bid
October	18.65 nominal
November	18.60 "
December	18.60 "
January (1950)	18.45 "
February	18.40 "
March	18.35 "
April	18.30 "
May	18.25 "
Standard Rubber Futures.	
March	19.40 nominal
April	19.30 "
May	19.20 "

—United Press.

LONDON MARKET

London, Mar. 22.—Prices in the rubber market here today closed as follow:—

May (in pence per lb.)	11-⅜
July/September	11-¼
October/December	11 "

—United Press.

NY FOREIGN EXCHANGE

	Closing prices March 22
Argentine Peso (Official)	US$0.2077
Argentine Peso (Unofficial)	.2003
Australia	3.23-¾
Brazil	.0060
Belgium	.0228-¾
Canada	93-1/16
Chile	.0230
England	4.03
France	.0031-⅛
India	.3024
Mexico	.1430
New Zealand	4.02
Peru	.0360
Portugal	.0404
South Africa	4.03-¼
Sweden	.2785
Switzerland	.2517
Uruguay	.4300
Venezuela	.3010
Netherlands	.3770
Batavia	.2775
Singapore	.4730
Hongkong	.2500
Shanghai	.0003

—United Press.

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local unofficial exchange market this morning at the following rates:—

Sterling pound note (per £1	15.2
US. dollar (per $1)	5.24
Gold bars (per tael)	311
FIC piastres (per 100)	10.2
Siam ticals (per 100)	237
NEI guilders (per 100)	328
Gold Yuan (per 100 yuan)	.41
Singapore (Straits)	18

DANISH GOVERNMENT ASKED TO APPROVE THE ATLANTIC PACT

Only Guarantee Of Help In Event Of Being Attacked

Copenhagen, Mar. 22—The Foreign Minister, Mr Gustav Rasmussen, today asked the Danish Parliament to endorse the Government's decision to join the North Atlantic Defence Pact.

Opening a pact debate in the Lower House (Folketing), the Foreign Minister also asked for authorisation for the Government to ratify the treaty after the signing in Washington next month.

Praising the Atlantic Pact as "an alliance of the world's most peace loving peoples", Mr Rasmussen said, "we now have to choose between joining this pact or being left in isolation without any real means of defence, and without any guarantees of help in case of attack."

The Foreign Minister admitted that the Danish Government still thought a Scandinavian defence alliance between Denmark, Norway and Sweden would be the best solution, but added that despite all efforts it had not been possible to reach such an agreement between the three countries.

"Instead, other democratic nations offered to co-operate with us," Mr Rasmussen said. "And the Government finds it advisable to accept the offer to join the North Atlantic Pact."

Speaking of Greenland, the Foreign Minister said that during his recent visit to Washington the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, declared that "the Greenland bases would never be used to promote aggressive purposes."

NOT FOR SALE

"I found that Mr Acheson vividly realised the necessity of a continued Danish Administration of Greenland without interference from American authorities," Mr Rasmussen declared, adding that the Secretary of State agreed that Denmark should gradually take over more and more of the establishments in Greenland now operated by Americans. "I want to state clearly that Greenland has not been sold and to stress that it is not for sale," Mr Rasmussen added.

During the first part of his speech, the Foreign Minister was interrupted by youthful pro-Communist elements in the gallery and the chairman of the House had to use his gavel several times to restore order.

The debate will continue tomorrow with statements from Party leaders. The Communists are planning large scale demonstrations against the Pact in front of the Parliament buildings tomorrow afternoon.

Also the non-political "Peace Board," comprising such organisations as the Women's International Peace League, the One World Movement and the Danish UN Peace Association, will demonstrate tomorrow. These organisations, which have a total of only 25,000 members are advocating a plebiscite on the question of Denmark's joining the Pact.—Associated Press.

NO FRENCH DEBATE

Paris, Mar. 22.—The French National Assembly, by 410 votes to 182, tonight rejected a Communist demand for an immediate debate on the Atlantic Pact.

M. Jacques Duclos, the leader of the Communist Parliamentary group, said he wanted the debate because it was a "war pact." "It is contrary to the Franco-Soviet treaty of alliance and contrary to the United Nations Charter," he declared.

The French Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman, said the Government opposed a debate at present, but the pact would be subject to Parliamentary ratification.

Smiling broadly as he turned towards the Communist benches, M. Schuman added: "You have the means to prevent the signature of the pact—that is, to overthrow the Government."

Protesting against what he called the Communist "tendentious campaigning" against the pact, M. Schuman said: "I come from Eastern France, which has suffered so much through war and I would not commit France to a pact aimed at provoking war."—Reuter.

No New U.S.-Funds For China Hinted

Washington, Mar. 22.—Chairman Tom Connally hinted strongly on Tuesday that U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee will recommend no new funds for China this year.

Instead, he told a news conference, the Committee probably will authorise the expenditure of a $58,000,000 carry-over from the present Economic Co-operation Act expiring on April 3.

He said authorisation for use of the fund through to December 31, 1949, probably would be placed in the new ECA act which the Senate will start debating soon.

The move to make the $58,000,000 carry-over available to the Chinese is in line with a House bill introduced by Representative John Kee of West Virginia.

ACTION UNLIKELY

Mr Connally was asked if the Senate Committee planned any action on a bill by Senator McCarran, Nevada Democrat, to provide China with $1,500,000,000 in economic and military aid. Mr Connally replied the Committee had no plans to act on it.

The Committee heard in closed session from Major-General David G. Barr, Chief of the Joint Military Advisory Group to China, on the entire Chinese situation. Mr Connally declined to disclose any details of Gen. Barr's report.

Another Committee member, asking not to be quoted by name, told reporters that Gen. Barr said the Chinese Communists can take over the whole of China at any time they wish.

GENERAL'S OPINIONS

He said Gen. Barr also gave the Committee these opinions:

1—There is no line of defence south of the Yangtse River and the disorganised Nationalist Army is in no position to put up real opposition to the Reds.

2.—The Communists probably will push supplies into China in the next two years while establishing a government. But after that will come "chaos".

3.—The United States has "lost face" with the Chinese because of the collapse of the Nationalist Armies and the flight of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. American prestige is at low ebb in all China.

4.—The masses of Chinese people still are loyal to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek—but they have an overwhelming desire for peace. Their trust in the Nationalist government was badly shaken by corrupt officials.—Associated Press.

Marshall Aid Plan Of Action

Council To Meet

Paris, Mar. 22.—The Marshal Aid Organisation's 19-member Council will meet here tomorrow to ratify a 1949-50 plan of action, drafted recently by the eight Ministers forming the Western Europe "Economic Cabinet."

The plan, drawn up during a five-day meeting, which ended on March 8, aims at financial stability in all the Marshall aid nations by 1949. It will ask each member country to provide a report on its internal financial position by May 1, "without prejudice to budget secrecy."

The plan also proposes that the seven-member Executive Committee of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation should report "any aspects of these reports which appear to indicate that a member is not carrying out the undertaking on financial and monetary stabilisation to which it is pledged."

It also proposes that each country be asked to report on its export drive, on measures to increase productivity and to reduce or eliminate trade barriers.

STABILISATION NEEDED

Mr Averell Harriman, the Marshall Plan special Ambassador in Europe, said after the "Economic Cabinet" meeting that he believed the plan of action would "substantially improve" the prospects of European independence of special assistance by 1952, when American aid is due to end.

He regarded the plan's proposal for the financial and monetary stabilisation of Europe this year as the most pressing section.

"Fiscal stability—confidence in currencies—is the most needed thing," he said.

Mr Harriman felt that while a good deal of progress had been made, "there is still a tremendous opportunity for increased productivity in Western Europe's factories and farms." He believed the action suggested to reduce trade barriers and to bring about the maximum flow of goods would help to restore the balance of intra-European trade.—Reuter.

HOFFMAN'S APPEAL

Washington, Mar. 22.—The Economic Co-operation Administrator, Mr Paul G. Hoffman, today appealed to the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee not to reduce the estimates of the Marshall aid plan needs for the coming years.

The Committee is reported to be considering slashing the official estimate of funds needed by as much as $200 million on the basis of lower cost estimates of food and other supplies.

Officials of the Economic Co-operation Administration expressed surprise that the official estimates should be questioned again at this late stage of committee consideration of the bill.

They said conditions had not changed since Mr Hoffman successfully challenged similar arguments before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee several weeks ago.

The Senate group afterwards approved the estimates in full.

The House Committee had called on Mr Hoffman once again to explain the effect on the Marshall laid estimates of the recent decline in commodity prices.—Reuter.

Burglar Too Old To Be Successful

New York, Mar 22.— Clarence Bessey, 67, admitted that he was too old to be a successful burglar.

Bessey was arrested last night because he did not hear the burglar alarm after he had broken into a home.

"I guess I am getting a little deaf," he told the police.—United Press.



"Take this tonic three times a day, don't drink or smoke, avoid excitement, watch your diet—and quit thinking of yourself as an invalid."

POCKET CARTOON



Churchills To Dine With Trumans

Washington, Mar. 22.—Mr Winston Churchill, who arrives in New York tomorrow aboard the Queen Elizabeth, will come here by train on Thursday to be the guest of President Truman at dinner.

Mr and Mrs Churchill will be entertained by President and Mrs Truman at Blair House and will spend the night at the British Embassy, returning to New York by train on Friday. The New York schedule includes dinners by the magazine publisher, Mr Henry Luce, and the New York Times.

The couple will go to Boston on the 30th for Mr Churchill's speech to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They sail for home from New York on April 2.

Some sources speculated that Mr Truman called off his speech because the British Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, was due to arrive in Washington on the 31st to join in the signing of the North Atlantic treaty on April 4. Sources surmised that Mr Truman would not consider it proper to be away from Washington and meeting Mr Churchill while Britain's top man on foreign affairs was in town.—United Press.

Paris, Mar. 22.—Mr Michael Ealand Eaton, a British subject, charged before a Paris court with issuing worthless cheques, was released on provisional liberty last night. He was arrested in Paris on March 3.—Reuter.

Film Industry Crisis

British Cabinet To Study Position

London, Mar. 22. — The Cabinet will next week consider ways to overcome the present crisis in the film industry. The Cabinet may decide to double the capital of the Film Finance Corporation, which it founded to help producers raise money for films.

The Corporation at present has power to loan up to £5 million on reasonable commercial terms. Film experts believe this capital to be inadequate.

British film-making and export are regarded by the Government as essential for Britain's balance of payments, but the industry is facing strong international competition, and producers are having difficulty in making their pictures pay.

GRAVE HANDICAP

Their inability to sell more of their pictures abroad, particularly in the United States, is a grave handicap. And in Europe, the yield from British films is affected by currency restrictions.

Producers say that the creative side of the industry is receiving an unfair deal. They point to pictures which have been made at a loss and which have, nevertheless, earned over £1 million at British box offices.

Most of the capital of the industry is invested in Britain's 5,000 movie houses, which at one time showed up to 90 per cent American films. The industry earns more than £100 million annually, but before the film producer receives a share of the box office takings, the exhibitor and distributor take theirs.

Production, first to invest, is last to get a return. This position is at present being investigated by a Government Committee, which is expected to report at the end of May.—Reuter.

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Robert Donat
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GALA PERFORMANCE
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This Is The Moment There's Something About The Midnight Oak When I'll Do
CESAR ROMERO · WALTER ABEL · REGINALD GARDINER
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— TO-MORROW —
"Summer Holiday"
Starring
Juno de Haven
Mickey Rooney

NOTICE

This is to notify that Mr Tsang Hon Hung who was employed by Francis Wu's Studio as a press photographer is no longer connected with this studio.

FRANCIS WU

Hong Kong, March 18th, 1949.

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in
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NOTICE

THE REFORM CLUB OF HONGKONG

THE SECOND PUBLIC MEETING will be held at the West Lounge, European Y.M.C.A., Kowloon, on Thursday, 24th March, 1949, at 6 p.m. and THE THIRD PUBLIC MEETING will be held at the Roof Garden of the Hongkong Hotel on Monday, 28th March, 1949, at 5.30 p.m.

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